

Cabinet agrees £500m emergency package

Spending cuts hit NHS and defence

- The Cabinet agreed to a package of £500m in expenditure cuts and the raising of an equal amount by extra sales of public assets.
- The latest Treasury forecast is thought to show public borrowing running at about £3,000m over the Budget target of £8,200m.
- Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, may be forced to make further cuts, possibly as much as £2,000m, this autumn.
- The Royal College of Nursing called cuts in the national health service "a betrayal".
- Mr Geoffrey Drain, general secretary of the National and Local Government Officers' Association, forecast a "disastrous effect on public sector provision, on health care and on jobs".

By Julian Haviland and Frances Williams

Early evidence of the determination of Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to try to keep down public spending, as he promised Parliament last week, was furnished yesterday when the Cabinet agreed to an emergency package of £500m in expenditure cuts in the current financial year and to the raising of an equal amount by extra sales of public assets.

Mr Lawson may be forced to make further and bigger cuts in public spending in the autumn if he intends to restore the Government's original plans. The cuts announced yesterday do not go nearly far enough.

The latest Treasury forecast, prepared before yesterday's measures, is thought to show public borrowing running about £3,000m over the Budget target of £8,200m, almost entirely because of overspending by Government departments and local authorities.

This means further cuts of as much as £2,000m may be necessary if public spending is

to be held to the planned £120,000m in 1983-84. Mr Lawson was careful to say the measures would bring spending "closer to the course" laid out in February's White Paper, not that they would bring it back on track.

Mr Lawson is thus faced with an agonising dilemma - whether to push through, against all odds, more painful cuts in spending to keep public borrowing down, or to give way, leaving his financial strategy in tatters.

More spending will mean higher taxes, rather than the reductions Mr Lawson wishes to deliver, or higher borrowing, putting paid to hopes of lower interest rates.

In the Commons Mr Lawson said an adjustment of some £1,100m was needed to bring expenditure closer to the planned total of £119,600m.

Some £100m would be saved in the current year by allowing a limited carry-forward of underspending on capital programmes - something long

demanded by the Defence Department in particular and hitherto resisted by the Treasury - which Mr Lawson said would reduce the "end-year surge" by departments keen to use all their allocations.

Mr Lawson told the Commons the savings will be made by reducing cash limits, by 1 per cent for pay and for central government administration, and by 2 per cent for capital procurement and other elements. There is also to be a 2 per cent reduction across the board in the external financing limits of nationalized industries, saving about £57m.

Last night the Treasury calculated that the approximate effect of the cuts on the various programmes would be defence £240m, overseas aid £20m, employment £25.3m, education £36m, health £140m, transport £16m.

Mr Norman Fowler, secretary of State for Social Services, said indications had been that spending on programmes for which he was responsible was running at some £30m more than planned - one third from spending on family practitioner services, two thirds on social security spending.

As these are not cash-limited but depend on demand, savings by his department will have to come from elsewhere. Mr Fowler said they would get back on target by setting lower

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Defence budget £230m less than White Paper forecast

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Within 24 hours of publishing his defence White Paper, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, suffered the embarrassment yesterday of having to announce that defence spending this year would be about £230m less than the figures given in the White Paper.

This was the result of the statement in the Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The bill was, however, sweetened for Mr Heseltine by a change in government accounting procedures which will in future allow departments to carry forward into the next financial year amounts by which they underspend their budgets.

The Ministry of Defence has been pressing for this reform for a long time.

The budget reduction will bring it down from £15,973m to £15,743m. It comprised a £70m reduction in forecast pay and

administration costs and a £160m decrease in proposed capital spending programmes. Mr Heseltine said: "The world 'cut' does not come into it. The issue is the rate at which we increase expenditure."

Asked why the spending plans had been changed just one day after the White Paper, he said: "I knew there would be a discussion today, but I had no means of knowing what the outcome would be."

He said if the whole of the £70m pay costs were to be saved by a employment cuts it would cost 5,500 jobs. This would be on top of the 9,000 jobs that the Ministry is already committed to saving by next April. "I am not saying that is what I am going to do," he said.

Job savings could affect civilians and members of the armed services, but he said that nothing would be done to reduce fighting capability.

Mr Heseltine said that even after these reductions in spending the defence budget this year would be 3.1 per cent higher in real terms than last year. It would mean that defence spending since the Conservatives came to power in 1979 had risen by 17.1 per cent if spending on the Falklands campaign were included, and 12.5 per cent if it were excluded.

Last year defence spending rose by 5.9 per cent in real terms, including the Falklands, but only 0.6 per cent if the Falklands were excluded.

He said the ability to roll forward any cash that was underspent at the end of future financial years would enable the Ministry to maintain a more even and rational flow of spending.

The amount which can be carried forward will be limited to 5 per cent of the capital budget of between about £300m and £350m.

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Pledge on NHS is betrayed nurses say

The Royal College of Nursing described the package of cuts as "a betrayal of election promises" that this Government has a deep commitment to the National Health Service.

The college said that the cuts were a "devastating attack on the NHS" and made the pledge that "the NHS is safe with us" sound very hollow.

"There is no doubt that the declaration there has been no overall reduction to NHS funding overlooks the fact that within the service serious adjustments are going to have to be made by health authorities and that there will be ramifications throughout the NHS for many years," a spokesman said.

Dr John Havard, secretary of the British Medical Association, said last night: "Coming only a few days after the announcement of long-term plans for health service financing, these further economies are causing considerable anxiety."

Mr Geoffrey Drain, general secretary of the National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo), the largest public sector union said: "The cuts will have a disastrous effect on public sector provision on health care and on jobs. Nalgo's anger will be reflected in the opposition which is sure to come."

"These measures will further increase the already unacceptably high level of unemployment in our society," Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, said last night that Mr Lawson's statement was further evidence of the Government's intention to "butcher" nationalized industries.

In the coal industry, he said, the National Coal Board and the Government were proposing to shut 70 pits and cut manpower by 70,000 at a cost to the taxpayer of £4.3bn over 10 years. But keeping the pits open, employing men producing valuable coal would cost the taxpayer only £2,000 million.

Mr Andrew Kerr, chairman of the mediation committee, has turned down the machine makers' demand for a "substantial increase" on the company's offer of £304.67, but has conceded new manning levels

Steel to take a break as leader

By Philip Webster Political Reporter

A combination of personal and political reasons are behind the decision of Mr David Steel, announced yesterday, to take a break from the leadership of the Liberal Party.

Mr Steel is standing down for two months because he is hurt by backbiting criticism from within his own party, tired by the strains of the general election and being leader for seven years and anxious to spend more time with his family.

He is also unhappy over views about the long-term development of the Alliance expressed by Dr David Owen, the Social Democratic Party leader, since their weekend talks three weeks ago. Although Mr Steel ended those talks with the understanding that Dr Owen shared his belief in the need for greater convergence between the parties, he believes that the SDP leader has laid too much emphasis since on their separate identities.

Excessive separatism, Mr Steel believes, is out of tune with the feelings of the grass roots in both parties.

As the Liberals yesterday pondered the implications of their leader's decision to take a "sabbatical" few doubted that he would be back in charge by the time of the annual assembly in the autumn.

Mr Steel said there was nothing "dramatic" about it, but it is known that he has been deeply hurt by criticism of his style of leadership by party activists and some MPs, notably Mr David Alton and Mr Cyril Smith.

His action yesterday was seen by many of his friends as a warning that there is a limit to how much he would take. He said in Edinburgh: "I think it is no bad thing that the party should have the opportunity of seeing how they get on on their own. It could be a very uplifting experience for them as well as for myself."

Several MPs argued at the meeting of the Parliamentary Liberal Party on Wednesday that Mr Steel should take his break without a formal announcement, but Mr Steel, who was not present, wanted it to be known in the party.

It quickly became clear yesterday that his action would not quell those critics who claim he is autocratic. Mr Smith said on television: "The view of some of us is that there has been a lack of consultation between David and his colleagues in the parliamentary party. We got the impression the election was being run by David Steel and the gang of four and the rest of us were total nonentities."

Mr Steel will welcome the extra time with his family. He said during the election campaign: "I feel I have definitely missed out on quite a chunk of family life. My children feel it. My wife feels it."



Swinging Prince: Prince Charles on the bongos yesterday with Vernon Munnington at the Caribbean Centre, Ipswich.

Railmen's vote may clinch Kinnock win

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The Labour Party leadership was practically clinched for Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday when the swing to the left in the National Union of Railwaysmen delivered him another large slice of the trade union block vote.

By an overwhelming majority, the NUR delegate conference in Bridlington opted for the left-centre candidate to succeed Mr Michael Foot, but checked the slide towards political militancy by deciding to nominate Mr Roy Hattersley as deputy leader.

The NUR, which has 160,000 affiliated votes is the first union to determine its preference after a branch consultation exercise, and the outcome is bound to give encouragement to Labour moderates promoting the so-called "dream ticket" of a Kinnock-Hattersley partnership at the top.

By contrast, the result is a blow for the hard left, which was hoping to pick up the railwaymen's support and create a bandwagon of backing for Mr Michael Meacher as deputy leader.

The Meacher campaign organization is counting on the votes of at least half of the unions (who make up 40 per cent of the electoral college), but a Hattersley aide said last night: "Nobody who is serious in the

Kinnock camp would be interested in having Meacher as deputy. The Labour Party would be no longer in business for a generation. The unions know that perfectly as well." The only people who don't are the constituency parties - and unfortunately they are not interested in power, as we know."

In the NUR vote yesterday, Mr Kinnock took 52 votes for the leadership Mr Hattersley 19, Mr Eric Heffer 5 and Mr Peter Shore 1. In the vote for deputy leader, the political dice fell the other way, with Mr Hattersley picking up 42 votes, Mr Meacher 54, Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody 6, Mr Heffer 3 and Mr Shore 1. Neither of the last two is standing as deputy leader. There was one spoiled paper.

The left reacted sharply to suggestions that there was now a steady drift towards Mr Hattersley for deputy leader. "The more this goes on the more the 'dream ticket' turns sour," a Meacher campaign man said. It would mean two separate leaders. The trade unions on the left know it is a recipe for disaster. It means war. If they elect those two the battle will go on."

Each side is now updating its calculations in the light of yesterday's NUR decision.

MPs set to fight pay curb

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

The Cabinet yesterday decided that it would attempt to enforce a 4 per cent pay restraint on the Commons, in spite of advice that it would be defeated by a combined force of MPs from both sides of the Chamber.

The Shadow Cabinet has already been informed that most Labour MPs favour payment of the full £19,000 recommended by the Review Body on Top Salaries, an increase of 30.9 per cent on the current salary of £14,510.

Mr Edward du Cann, newly-elected chairman of the Conservative backbench 1922 Committee, has to decide whether he too, will go for the full £19,000 as his friends suggested he would before his election to that office.

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'Palimony' girl beaten to death

Los Angeles (Reuter) - Former actress Vicki Morgan, who sued the millionaire Alfred Bloomingdale for \$5m (£3.2m), claiming he had promised to keep her for life, was yesterday found beaten to death, police said.

Lieutenant Dan Cooke said Mr Marvin Panooset, aged 33, was being held in custody. After he walked into a police station and allegedly said: "I just killed someone." He would probably be charged today.

The partially-clad body of Miss Morgan, aged 29, was found in her Hollywood flat and a blood-stained baseball bat was near by, Lieutenant Cooke said.



Vicki Morgan: Baseball bat found near body.

Last September a Los Angeles judge rejected "palimony" claims by Miss Morgan against the estate of Bloomingdale, an heir to a department store fortune, and his wife Betsy.

Bloomingdale, who died last July, had been a member of President Reagan's "kitchen cabinet" and Mrs Bloomingdale has been described as Mrs Reagan's best friend.

Yesterday, police said Mr Panooset had told them he had known Miss Morgan since 1979 and they shared her flat for the past three weeks. "There was a verbal fight - nothing physical - before she went to bed," Lieutenant Cooke said.

Print jobs 'in danger' as talks break down

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

The crisis at the strike-bound National Graphical Association deepened last night as talks to end the five-week stoppage resulted in deadlock.

Management accused the National Graphical Association of defying a mutually agreed formula for negotiation and has started fresh approaches to the rival print union Sogat '82 in an attempt to restart the paper.

The FT is now planning to put its manual workers on basic wages next week and the imminent possibility of wholesale dismissals is not being discounted.

In mediation talks yesterday, Mr Bryn Griffiths, president of the NGA, is understood to have said that any "interference" by Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, would not be helpful. "We are a sovereign union," he is reported to have said. Mr Murray underwrote

the whole negotiating framework and said he expected both parties "to respect the outcome of the agreed procedure".

The breakdown - it is officially called an adjournment without a date for a restart - will now test Mr Murray's resolve and his ability to whip into line the 24 machine minders at the centre of the strike.

National leaders of the NGA are thought to be under considerable pressure from the men's chapel (office branch) and to have been forced against their better judgment to ignore the mediator's recommendations.

Mr Andrew Kerr, chairman of the mediation committee, has turned down the machine makers' demand for a "substantial increase" on the company's offer of £304.67, but has conceded new manning levels

Washington scandal deepens

Sex, the CIA and a White House mole

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The furor over the purloined Carter White House papers is developing into a major Washington scandal, with allegations of sexual favours and the recruiting of former CIA men by the Reagan campaign team being among the new ingredients that have been added to what is becoming for the White House an increasingly notorious brew.

More squandered documents, some of them described as coming from a "reliable White House mole", have made their way to the Washington Post, which, clearly relishing the chance of reliving past Watergate glories, has splashed them

across its front and inside pages. At the same time further contradictory evidence by senior Reagan aides has not only added to the public's growing awareness that the affair is not just a matter of midsummer media madness, but has also fuelled new tensions between "conservative" and "pragmatic" factions in the White House.

Allegations that sexual favours may have been used to obtain some of the Carter briefing papers that found their way to the Reagan camp during the 1980 election campaign have been made to the House

subcommittee investigating the matter. Mr Donald Albores, a Democratic Representative from Michigan who is chairing the subcommittee's investigations, said the evidence he had seen so far suggested that "a sex scandal could be created out of this testimony".

He added: "There have been people who have made statements to lead us to believe there were sexual favours involved. It's just hearsay but it seems to be coming from reliable sources. The House inquiry is one of two investigations taking place. The other is being conducted by

the FBI at the behest of the Justice Department. According to Mr Edwin Meese, the White House Counselor, President Reagan is prepared to give evidence to the FBI investigators if asked to do so.

However, he added that as the President knew nothing about the matter until the controversy began two weeks ago he would not be a very good source. According to a report in The New York Times Reagan campaign officials had run an operation to collect information about President Carter's foreign policy.

TOMORROW

Riverside
Vladimir Promyslov, Mayor of Moscow arrives at County Hall as the guest of the GLC.

Seaside
Alan Hamilton visits two resorts that have no intention of being left behind by foreign sun spots.

Countryside
Beryl Downing on the best of Britain's regional wares and fare.

Offside
David Miller assesses the state of soccer in the United States.

Seamy side
Peter Nichols follows a trail of drugs from Italy to the Middle East, a trail with a Mafia connexion and links with Italian freemasonry.

Thatcher pledge on hanging

Legislation to reintroduce capital punishment would have to be put to MPs within the next 12 months after an affirmative vote in the Commons next Wednesday, Mrs Margaret Thatcher told the Cabinet.

Whitehall sources had said that the weight of government business was such that there was no prospect of legislation for at least 16 months. Page 2.

Paris hijack drama ends

Six Iranian hijackers surrendered in Paris yesterday allowing all 199 hostages to go free. They gave up after the intervention of Mr Massoud Rajavi, the leader-in-exile in Paris of the Iranian Mujahedin left-wing guerrilla movement. Page 6.

Union stand

Leaders of the Transport and General Workers' Union have drawn up plans to call industrial action if members are fired or imprisoned under labour legislation. Page 2.

Euro-doom

The European Parliament is preparing a Doomsday report on the EEC economy which it hopes will shock people into accepting lower wages, reduced welfare benefits and more trade union control. Recovery strategy, page 16.

Holiday sales

Far fewer discounted holidays are available for late bookers this summer because of a late rise in sales and cuts in the number of holidays on offer. Page 3.

Road toll down

Deaths and serious injuries to front seat occupants of cars and light vans fell by a quarter in the two months after seat belts were made compulsory. Page 3.

Lord Tonypandy

Mr George Thomas, former Speaker of the House of Commons, who was made a viscount on his retirement is to take the title of Lord Tonypandy.

Society killer

A Spanish lawyer's son was convicted of murdering his millionaire, aristocratic in-laws at the end of a sensational trial in Madrid. Page 5.

Burglar profile

A typical burglar is likely to be a teenager whose primary motive is material gain or perhaps excitement, according to a crime survey of 11,000 households. Page 3.

Edmonds back

England have recalled Phil Edmonds, the Middlesex spin bowler, for the first Test match against New Zealand, starting at the Oval next Thursday. Page 29.

Leader page, 13

Letters: On capital punishment, from Mr J Stanton, and others; police, from Sir Kenneth Newman; social policy, from Mr M Wick.

Leading articles: Youth opportunities; interest rates; Parliamentary committees.

Features, pages 10, 11, 12

The hawk behind the American eagle; David Watt on the East-West impasse; Scotland for the Scots - or the tourists? Spectrum; Koestler and the gallows debate. Friday page: Crisis in the Cooperative Women's Guild.

Obituary, page 14

The Most Rev Philip Strong, Miss Edith Ramsay.

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Councils in Wales lose grants of £12.6m

Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, announced last night that £12.6m will be withheld from the rate support grant that would have been paid to Welsh councils in 1983-84 if they had not exceeded government spending targets (David Walker writes).

In total, the Welsh counties and districts are planning to spend more than £21m in excess of government targets.

Cardiff, which came under Conservative control at the May council elections but was Labour when its budget was made, is among the leading urban overspenders in Wales, along with Swansea, Cwtyd, Gwent, Mid-Glamorgan and South Glamorgan are among the overspending counties.

Anger in the Welsh counties at government grant arrangements came to the surface at the annual meeting of the Association of County Councils on Wednesday. Several speakers threatened a mass defection of Welsh councils unless the association adopted a more critical line over government rating proposals.

£25,000 test tube baby appeal

A £25,000 appeal has been launched in the North-east to provide resources for a laboratory to enable *in vitro* fertilisation facilities to be offered.

The appeal has been launched by Dr Tom Lind, a consultant obstetrician at Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, who believes that local women could benefit from the introduction of National Health Service facilities for test-tube babies.

Doctor guilty of misconduct

A woman doctor was found guilty yesterday of serious professional misconduct for issuing drug prescriptions other than for bona fide treatment.

Dr Ann Dally, aged 57, of Devonshire Place, Marylebone, London was admonished by the professional conduct committee of the General Medical Council in London, after it was told she had prescribed diclofenac for a man who was later convicted of drug offences.

Welsh speaking decline halted

The latest census figures based on the steady decline in the numbers of Welsh speakers has been halted. Just over 500,000 people, or 19 per cent of the population, can speak the language, a 1.8 per cent decline over 10 years.

There has been a marked increase in the number of young people claiming fluency, an indication of the success of the Welsh medium schools.

School cleaners made redundant

Redundancy notices were sent out yesterday to 1,200 school cleaners in Cambridgeshire who are being replaced by private contractors from the next term.

Legislation in a year after vote on hanging, Thatcher says

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister yesterday insisted in Cabinet that any legislation to reintroduce capital punishment, after a successful vote in the Commons next Wednesday, would have to be put through Parliament within the next 12 months.

Whitehall sources had repeatedly stated on Wednesday that the weight of government business was such that there was no prospect of immediate legislation, which would therefore have to be held up for at least 16 months and the next parliamentary session.

It is understood that Mrs Thatcher recognized the anger that such delay would have provoked in her own party and despite the difficulties, ministers were forced to accept that judgment.

The second Whitehall confusion, over the status of the legislation, was also clarified yesterday. Some sources had stated on Wednesday that the legislation would be a full government measure, a move which could have provoked resignation from ministers who, in all conscience, could never vote for capital punishment in any form.

But Mrs Thatcher told the Commons: "There has always been a free vote and if there were to be a Bill introduced consequent upon a vote to restore capital punishment, I would expect it to be introduced by a private member."

Union leader ready for jail over Tebbit

From David Felton, Labour Correspondent, Douglas

Leaders of Britain's largest union yesterday pledged to defend members facing sanctions under the Government's labour legislation and have drawn up plans to call industrial action in opposition to fines or imprisonment.

Mr Mosley Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said the union's policy-making conference would be called into emergency session within three days of action being taken under the legislation against a union's internal processes or rules as a result of the legislation.

"I am bound by a policy of not handing over union funds to the Government or the courts and it appears because of that I might be put in jail. It is not a very great sacrifice at my age, people who have gone before me have made much greater sacrifices," he said. Mr Evans will be 58 next week.

He told delegates to the union's biennial conference in Douglas, Isle of Man, that his union would ignore the legislation and that it could be "business as usual". There would be no change in the union's internal processes or rules as a result of the legislation.

Mr Evans was speaking in advance of the expected publication next week of the White Paper on the latest union reform proposals, including



"People are reading far too much into my sabbatical"

Anglo-US attack on steel deal

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Steel unions in Britain and the United States have financed a £250,000 advertising campaign attacking the proposed steel slab export deal between the British Steel Corporation and United States Steel.

The potential venture between the two loss-making companies has angered steelworkers on both sides of the Atlantic, particularly as it could cost an estimated 5,000 jobs.

An advertisement placed in the national British press today bears the headline "A very risky steel deal". Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of BSC and Mr David Roderick, of United States Steel, are accused of being engaged in "secretly-shrouded negotiations" putting together a high-risk gamble.

The plan, yet to be approved by either Government, involves the annual export of three million tonnes of slabs from the Ravenscraig works in Scotland to the Fairless works in Pennsylvania. US Steel, the unions say is demanding that BSC invest £390m in the Fairless finishing works - "a sweet deal for US Steel but a bitter pill for British taxpayers."

Mr William Sims, leader of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, the largest British steel union, said yesterday: "It is ludicrous that a deal is being done behind closed doors, involving millions of pounds of taxpayers' money, with absolutely nothing being said to Government or to Parliament."

The deal, he added, was being put together by two Americans who happened to be friends. But if half of Ravenscraig was closed and then the legal loopholes were plugged by the Americans, the Scottish plant would be crippled and ready for closure.

The advertisement, signed by Mr Sims and Mr Lloyd McBride, of the United Steelworkers of America, lists six reasons why the deal could fail.

Garage staff win pay-docking case

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Petrol stations may be forced to review their procedures after a garage was found guilty yesterday of illegally docking employees' wages to make up for shortfalls in the tills.

In a test prosecution brought by two of the garage's former employees, Action Magistrates in west London found Matzwest Motors guilty of four offences under the little-used Truck Act, 1896, and ordered them to pay maximum fines of £200 on each count.

They also ordered the company to refund to the two employees nearly £90 which had been deducted from their pay packets.

The prosecution, thought to be the first of its kind, has implications for thousands of manual workers, cashiers, shop workers, milkmen and others whose wages are regularly docked.

Afterwards, Mr John Greenwood, a director of the company which runs the Motor Crown petrol chain, said: "We will now digest our misery and decide whether to appeal."

The company will obviously have to review its policy he said. But he added that as the practice was widespread throughout the industry, millions of pounds were involved. "The amount of cash flow involved could be frightening."

Irish poll on abortion in September

The Irish Government yesterday set Wednesday September 7 as the date for the controversial referendum to amend the constitution to include a prohibition on abortion.

Abortion is already illegal in the Republic but a strong conservative and Catholic lobby has been campaigning to get the ban written into the constitution. They argue that without such a clause abortion could be introduced through a decision of the courts.

Those involved in the mounting anti-abortion campaign maintain that the referendum is unnecessary, as there is no demand to legalize abortion. They also argue that giving equal right of life to the mother and the fetus it could threaten women's lives in that no exceptions, for such common sense.

The two main political leaders, Dr Garret Fitzgerald the Prime Minister and Mr Charles Haughey the leader of Fianna Fail, agreed to hold the referendum during a closely fought general election campaign.

On Wednesday this week Dr Fitzgerald said he regretted becoming involved. The passage of the referendum would be seen in Northern Ireland as a step backward he said.



Mr FitzGerald: Regret at involvement

Miners call job transfers 'vicious bullying' by NCB

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Miners' leaders yesterday expressed disgust and anger at the "vicious bullying and blackmail tactics" of the National Coal Board backed off from an immediate confrontation over job transfer in the Scottish coalfield.

The National Union of Mineworkers told its members at Polmaise colliery in Striding and Bogside pit in Fife to work normally and allow men transferring from the Cardowan mine in Lanarkshire, which is threatened with closure, to "sign on" for work despite rank-and-file hostility to the move.

Delegates at the NUM conference in Perth carried an emergency motion complaining about the coal board's tactics in transferring men who had opted to quit the doomed pit. The motion insisted that it was a breach of procedure which if repeated would prompt a union boycott of all consultation and review arrangements.

Normal working was being resumed at both collieries last night but tension remains.

British grain boom ahead, report says

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The United Kingdom's wheat and barley production could rise by 1987-88 to 10 per cent above last year's record of more than 21 million tonnes, a report published yesterday forecasts.

Most of the extra production could be expected to result from higher yields, but there may also be an increase in the area under cultivation of up to 200,000 hectares, or just over 5 p.c.

These projections are made by a Ministry of Agriculture working group set up last year.

The United Kingdom Cereals Market - the Next Five Years (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Publications Unit, Lion House, Willowburn Trading Estate, Alnwick, Northumberland).

Leaflets issued of 'most wanted man'

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Thousands of leaflets with a photo of Dominic McGlinchey, "The most wanted man in Ireland", were distributed throughout Northern Ireland yesterday as the RUC increased its hunt for a man it described as dangerous and probably armed.

McGlinchey, aged 29, from Londonderry, is being sought by police on both sides of the border after vanishing while appealing in the Irish Republic against an extradition order to Ulster, where he is wanted for questioning about the murder of a woman six years ago.

During the hearing he admitted being a member of the provisional IRA in 1977, but police believe he has since joined the Irish National Liberation Army and is organizing it in border areas.

Vanishing 'think tank' has cost taxpayer £11.1m

By Peter Hennessy

The Prime Minister has released figures showing the running costs of the Central Policy Review Staff (CPRS), the Cabinet's "think tank", which is to disappear when Parliament rises for the summer recess.

Since its foundation by Mr Edward Heath in 1971, the CPRS has cost on average £928,600 a year at 1983 prices. Its staff has oscillated between 15 and 20 in strength.

In a written answer to Mr Tim Eggar, Conservative MP for Enfield, North, Mrs Margaret Thatcher disclosed that the think tank has cost the taxpayer a total of £11.1m (at 1983 prices) since its birth.

She refused, however, a request from Mr Bruce George, Labour MP for Walsall, North, that she declassify unpublished CPRS reports short of the 30-year norm, as allowed under

section 5 (1) of the Public Records Act, 1958.

Nearly all of the think tank's output has been kept confidential. Mrs Thatcher told Mr George that she saw no reason to amend "the policy of successive governments" which has sustained the secrecy of its advice to ministers.

Whitehall generally regrets the passing of CPRS, particularly the loss of the collective briefs it prepared for ministers before Cabinet and Cabinet committee meetings, but senior officials reckon that once Mrs Thatcher had decided against it, it was pointless prolonging its life.

They are convinced, however, that something like it will be reinvented under another name by a future prime minister.

Letters, page 13



Source: The Prime Minister

Storks from Selfridges lift make £7,920

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A piece of the panelling which used to decorate the lifts at Selfridges, the London store, was auctioned by Phillips yesterday for £7,920 (estimate £4,000-£6,000) and bought by Jesse, a dealer from Kensington Church Street.

It is wrought iron and bronze panel designed by Edgar Brandt with gilt bronze storks among wirework clouds. Replicas of Brandt's 1922 panels were installed in the lifts at Selfridges and have become highly prized collectors' items. One is at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Meanwhile, in Somerset, Lawrence's of Crewkerne are selling Ruydard Kipling's typewriter. It is a Remington "Noiseless" and Kipling is known to have been using it around 1931. He gave it to Mrs M. E. Ley, his secretary, and a postcard addressed to her was sold with the machine.

In it Kipling pointed out that although she is "silent"..... if you hurry she begins to chatter to herself.

The Lawrence book sale also contained a collection of Willie Collins' material at £5,103. His novel The Moonstone, sometimes credited as the first detective story, was

Sale room

represented by a three volume first edition at £1,760 (estimate £400).

At Sotheby's the good summer sale of English watercolours included a new auction price record for work of Johann Heinrich Fuseli, when his wild was drawing of "Medea" sold for £41,800 (estimate £12,000-£18,000).

He also paid a record price for a talented but less than famous Irish portraitist, Hugh Douglas Hamilton. A delightful oval chalk self-portrait in a fur-trimmed hat, probably dating from the 1760s, sold for £8,900 (estimate £300-£1,200). His portrait drawings have seldom topped the £1,000 mark but Christie's suddenly secured £5,800 for one in June, a sign of new interest.

There was a considerable group of Turner watercolours and all of them sold at prices much in line with presale expectations. A view of "Gibside, County Durham, the seat of the Earl of Strathmore" went to Agnew's at £57,200 (estimate £40,000-£60,000) while "The river Ure at Heckfall, Yorkshire" fetched £26,400 (estimate £18,000-£24,000) to a private collector.

Science report

Teasing the secrets from icy Titan

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

Two and a half years after Voyager 1 flew past Saturn, scientists are still teasing discoveries out of the data which the American spacecraft sent back to Earth.

The latest findings show that Titan, Saturn's giant moon, is not the exotic world of methane oceans and methane rainfall that many scientists had predicted (or hoped for). But mysterious wave-like surges of gas do occur.

These "internal gravity waves" seem to originate near the moon's surface and then propagate through the atmosphere. Although the mechanism is not known, the waves may be triggered by convection as the weak solar radiation heats up the icy ground; the surface temperature on Titan is only 94 degrees above absolute zero (minus 179°C).

Scientists at Stanford University, California, published the latest studies of Titan in recent issues of Icarus and Science. They come from Voyager's radio occultation experiments when the spacecraft flew behind Titan in November, 1980. Its radio transmissions to Earth passed through the moon's atmosphere, and computer analysis of the changing signals has given the atmospheric composition with remarkable accuracy.

Titan is bigger than the planet Mercury and is the only moon in the solar system with an atmosphere, almost entirely nitrogen, with about one per cent methane - too little to condense in the quantities necessary to form clouds, rain, rivers and oceans. The observations kill the idea that methane's role on Titan may be comparable to that of water on Earth.

No substantial clouds float in the Titanic sky. Instead, there is a fairly uniform haze in the upper atmosphere, which prevented Voyager's cameras seeing the moon's surface. The high-altitude haze consists of hydrocarbons and other organic molecules, formed from methane in photochemical reactions induced by solar radiation.

Therefore, the surface is probably a mixture of ice (the main constituent of Titan) and organic solids. That would be fundamentally different from any other surface in the solar system.

But the truth will not be known until a space probe is sent through Titan's haze.

Reference: Icarus, volume 54, pages 337-352.



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Teenagers burgle empty homes for excitement and gain, survey finds

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A typical burglar is likely to be a teenager, highly apprehensive about being caught and keen to avoid confrontation.

His primary motive is excitement, rather than malice. In his own mind he will probably try to discount the distress that he causes. He will either argue that "they can afford it" or that "they are insured".

That profile of the burglar and his crimes come from a study of the results of the British crime survey of 11,000 households in England and Wales presented yesterday to the Home Office workshop at Cambridge University on residential burglary.

Home Office research has found that burglars use different entry points for different types of dwelling. Houses were more vulnerable at the rear or side than the front, where only a third of entries occurred. Two thirds of burgled flats were entered through front doors or windows.

Of the burglaries whose time of occurrence was known, about half took place in the daytime (6am to 6pm), a third in the evening and the remainder during the night and 6am.

Most burglaries were committed on weekdays but the daily rate was no higher than at the weekend.

In only 1 per cent of burglaries did a stranger use force against any member of the household. Damage to furniture and other possessions of the house exceeded £50 in only 8 per cent of cases in which the home was entered.

Flats were more likely to be burgled than houses, largely because flats tend to be in cities. Houses at the end of terraces are more likely to be burgled than those in between.

Council houses and flats are more at risk than owner-occupied households, losses from which tend to be higher. Homes which are left empty for several hours a day are more vulnerable than those which are not.

The combined figure for burglary and housebreaking in 1982 was 3.21 per cent against almost 94,000 in 1968, the last year before the present definition of burglary came into effect.

The twentieth century has seen a consistent increase in the amount of disposable goods which people keep in their homes. There has also been a large increase in the number of households in England and Wales, not merely because of the population increases but also because of the process by which large families have become fragmented.

Couples split up more often; the elderly less often live with their younger relatives; and live-in domestic staff, once a sizable proportion of the workforce is a rarity. Partly because of that and partly because of changing patterns of employment, many more homes are unoccupied for longer periods, especially in the daytime.

The British crime survey found that half the households were left unoccupied for three or more hours a day on average. Changes of that sort have created a wide range of opportunities for a form of burglary which at the turn of the century was neither burglary in the eyes of the law nor practicable from the offender's point of view; theft after forcible and undetected entry of homes in daytime.

Under the revised definition of burglary police statistics for "burglary in a dwelling" and the "aggravated burglary in a dwelling" have increased from about 180,000 in 1969 to 407,000 in 1982.

But evidence from crime surveys shows that much of that 125 per cent increase is due not to a rise in criminal activity but to increases reported by the public and recorded by the police. Burglary levels have advanced little over the decade since 1972.

Fewer discounts on late booked holidays

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Far fewer discounted holidays are on offer for late-bookers than in the summer of last year. A poor start to the booking season has been offset by later sales substantially above last year's while some operators have reduced the number of holidays on offer.

The net effect is a near balance between supply and demand, unlike last year, when to sell off packages operators were frequently cutting a quarter and even a half from brochure prices for late-bookers.

Pickfords Travel, one of the top two travel agency chains, reports summer season sales by the beginning of this month up 15 per cent over the same time last year. Cook's retail shops' sales rose by a third in June on annual comparison and July sales strengthened further.

Despite the increase in bookings the package holiday market is still about 5 per cent below last year's levels at this time of the year. But Pickfords and Thomson are looking to an increase of 5 per cent or more by the end of the season.

That would indicate continued higher sales from now. One Pickfords analysis also indicates how discounting has increased. The average holiday transaction the amount actually being paid is between 8 and 12 per cent up on last year.

Sue Lawley to be newsreader

By Kenneth Gosling

Sue Lawley, for 12 years a presenter of the BBC television programme *Nationwide*, is to become a newsreader in September when *Nationwide* is replaced by *60 Minutes*, a new current affairs programme.

She said yesterday that *Nationwide* had been a "lovely job" and that she had been offered the choice of joining the *Nine O'Clock News* or the new programme. "I think I was very lucky I had the choice".

Mr Alan Hart, controller of BBC-1, said that the new programme, from 5.40 pm to 6.40 pm would be shorter and sharper. It would continue with regional "optouts", but there would be a common style.

Mr Hart said that every area of Britain, including Scotland, supported the new programme. But it means that BBC Scotland will not have its own early evening programme, something for which Mr Patrick Chalmers, the BBC Scottish controller, had been arguing.

Mr Alasdair Milne, BBC director-general, said it is interesting this week that the BBC had been studying possibilities for the early evening since last August. They had expected that the Channel 4 news programme, now 60-minute slot cut by half, might affect this.

Mr Chalmers had felt that after the early evening news, which will be retained, Scotland should have the chance to set up a more thorough local coverage. But the need for a strong network programme clearly won the day.

Miss Lawley, aged 37, will join John Humphrys on the *Nine O'Clock News*, which regularly attracts an audience of 7.9 million. *Nationwide's* audience has ranged between five and eight million according to the season.

Mr David Lloyd, editor of *Newsnight* and formerly of *The Money Programme*, will edit *60 Minutes*.

Pensioners disarmed gun raider

Two pensioners who tackled and disarmed a man who tried to rob their shop were awarded £100 each by a judge at the Central Criminal Court yesterday "for their exemplary courage".

When Mr David Daniel, aged 79, and his sister Elizabeth, aged 78, said they would like to give the money to police charities, their generosity "delighted" the recorder, Miss Jean Southworth, QC.

Mr Daniel, a widower, and his sister, a spinster, have run a general store in Moreton Terrace, Westminster, for 52 years. The recorder told them: "If more people like you stood up to those who try and rob them, maybe there would be a lot fewer cowardly robbers about."

Mr Daniel, who lives with his sister above the shop, told the court two young men came in and bought chocolate bars.

One of them "pointed a gun in my face and demanded the cash from the till, about £300". Mr Daniel said. I rushed round the counter and grabbed a broom and tried to knock the gun out of his hand. I got hold of the gun and started to struggle with the man. We ended up in the street.

Mr Daniel was joined by his sister, who had been having a cup of tea when the hold-up began, and she also armed herself with a broom. "My brother told me to get back inside but I could not let him go alone. I hit the man with the gun a couple of times across the shoulders with the broom", she said.

While her brother held on to the man, Miss Daniel shouted to a policeman, who arrested the raider.

Christopher Baker, aged 20, unemployed and of no fixed address, admitted attempted robbery and possessing an imitation pistol. He was remanded in custody for sentence next week.

Gang jailed for £1m forgeries

Almost £1m in counterfeit banknotes rolled off the presses of an east London printers in less than 10 hours, Inner London Crown Court heard yesterday. What the counterfeit gang did not know was that for six months undercover officers had been watching their elaborate preparations. The policemen, from Scotland Yard's stolen vehicles squad, uncovered the plot while investigating other matters, the court heard.

Six men arrested after the raid were jailed for a total of 21 years after being convicted, or admitting their various roles in the scheme.

John Harris, aged 38, of Aberdeen Park, Highgate, north London, was jailed for five years after admitting possession of the forged notes in March last year. Andrew Cameron, 47, of 34, Victoria Lane, Hornchurch, Essex, was jailed for five years for possessing counterfeit notes. Keith Coombes, aged 35, of Nelson Walk, Sittingbourne, Kent, was jailed for four years for the same offence.

John Barber, aged 32, of Fairview, Canvey Island, Essex, and Steven Weller, aged 29, of Broomfield Road, Canvey Island, were jailed for three years.

Tony Barber, aged 33, of Valence Wood Road, Dagenham, Essex, brother of John Barber, was jailed for 18 months. The three, admitted making the forged currency with intent that it be passed as genuine.

Bradley inquest

The resumed inquest on Caroline Bradley, aged 37, international show jumper who died after competing in the Suffolk Show, will be held at Ipswich Crown Court next Tuesday.

Video game players fight for title

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

Eighteen of Britain's more accomplished arcade video games players, masters of machines with names like *Donkey Kong*, *Donkey Kong Junior*, *Mr Do*, *Robotron*, *Amidar* and *Defender*, converged on London yesterday to battle for the title of champion.

Britain's arcade video games championship, sponsored by *Computer and Video Games Magazine* and Taitel, the machines' manufacturer, was won by Julian Rignall, aged 18, from Tregaron, Dyfed.

Such games are being played by thousands of people on coin operated machines in public houses, clubs and amusement arcades all over Britain. The games have their own themes and use space ships or escaping King Kongs to add drama.

Over the past three-and-a-half months 500 players from all over the United Kingdom, mostly in their teens and twenties, have sent in their scores for the six games. Those with the three highest scores in each of the games qualified for the championships. The finalists, the champion from each of the six machines, then fought it out on a new space game, unveiled for the first time yesterday.

In the last five years video games have become big business. Most of the finalists admitted to spending about £2 to £3 a week on their games. The "Mr Do" champion, Cameron McDade, aged 16, from Wakefield, Yorkshire, qualified after scoring 3.5 million points in a 4.75 hours session.

He said: "I think my parents would rather I stay at home and did something a little more constructive". He is unemployed and plays in the working-men's club where his father is secretary.

Mark Neale, a "Donkey Kong" champion was one of the youngest finalists at 14.



Sue Lawley: End of "a lovely job"

for the early evening since last August. They had expected that the Channel 4 news programme, now 60-minute slot cut by half, might affect this.

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Mr David Lloyd, editor of *Newsnight* and formerly of *The Money Programme*, will edit *60 Minutes*.



Welcoming smiles for the Queen Mother yesterday during a tour of the United Biscuits factory in Harlesden, north London. For part of the visit Sir Hector Laing, the company's chairman, drove her around in an electric buggy.

Car casualties down after seat belt law

Deaths and serious injuries to front-seat occupants of cars and light vans fell by a quarter in the first two months after the compulsory seat belt law came into force, compared with the corresponding two months last year.

Figures released by the Department of Transport yesterday suggest that about a thousand people either owe their lives or lack of serious injuries to the three-year experimental regulations. The department intimated however, that results for the first few months should be treated with caution and that a trend may take time to emerge.

In the long term, the effects of the seat belt law will be assessed on at least two years' data. By then, the wearing rate - calculated at 95 per cent in February and March compared with 40 per cent a year earlier - should have stabilised and casualty rate fluctuations evoked out. Casualty figures for a single month are acknowledged as being affected by such factors as the weather public holidays and road safety publicity.

Mr Tom King, The Secretary of State for Transport, said it was "surely no coincidence" that deaths and serious injuries to front-seat occupants were lower than a year ago. "Of course, it is too early to be sure but the figures are certainly encouraging", he said.

Mr King also welcomed reports from doctors that the number of serious head and facial injuries had dropped significantly.



Mr King: "Figures encouraging"

Road deaths in the first three months of this year were estimated at 1,100 and serious injuries at 15,100, a reduction of 10 per cent in both figures. That was in spite of a 12 per cent rise in total traffic during the year.

Significant increases, however, were recorded among some road users. Among pedal cyclists casualties were 13 per cent higher, moped riders 8 per cent, and pedestrians 1 per cent. Decreases were recorded among goods vehicle casualties (14 per cent down), motorcyclists (12 per cent), bus and coach passengers (8 per cent) and car occupants (7 per cent).

The figure for motorcyclists might have been affected by new regulations, also introduced in February, restricting learners to machines of 125cc capacity. In the two months, injuries to rear seat passengers remained unchanged.

Police step up hunt for girl's killer

A new initiative was launched yesterday in the hunt for the killer of Susan Maxwell, a schoolgirl aged 11, from Cornhill on Tweed, whose body was dumped 250 miles away near Uxtoxeter, Staffordshire, a year ago.

Senior officers from Staffordshire, Northumbria and Lutonia police have met after the inquiry into her death this week. A police spokesman at Stafford said yesterday: "Detectives from all three forces will be carrying out particular tasks in the Uxtoxeter and Coldstream areas in the last week of July."

More than 11,000 statements have been obtained, about 18,000 owners of Triumph cars have been interviewed, and 70 police officers are still involved in the hunt for the girl's killer after a witness told the inquiry that he saw a maroon-coloured car with a girl like Susan inside shouting excitedly and brandishing a tennis racket with both hands as though she had lost her temper.

Fifteen "peeping Toms" have come forward after the police appeal for witnesses in the murder hunt for the killer of Miss Susan Renhard, aged 21, at Castleton in Derbyshire.

Remand on charge of seizing boy

A man accused of snatching Colin Jackson, aged 11, from his school in Sillington, Cleveland, was remanded in custody for a week by Teesside magistrates yesterday.

Sergeant Harry Simpson, told the court that Roy Willans, a bachelor, aged 23, seized the boy a month after taking him to Scotland. The magistrates heard that Mr Willans, unemployed, of Caudwell Close, Stockton-on-Tees was found with the boy at a flat in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Mr Willans appeared on a child-stealing charge with Mrs Christine George, a neighbour and Stephen Dyball of Crimdon Walk, Stockton. Mr Willans was also accused of possessing an offensive weapon. The others were released on bail.

Voluntary test scheme for deer-stalkers

By Hugh Clayton

Woodland deer-stalkers often shoot badly, use the wrong type of weapon, and know too little about the habits of their quarry, Colonel Cyril Wright, chairman of the training committee of the British Deer Society, said yesterday.

"The proper tool is a rifle. In certain circumstances a shotgun is legal." The short range of shotguns meant they often wounded deer but failed to kill, even when loaded with the right cartridge.

Mr Richard Prior, shortly to become the society's technical adviser, said the test would include placing three shots in a four-inch circle at a range of 100 metres. "If they cannot do that, they should not be shooting at a living animal," he said.

Colonel Wright said the voluntary tests had been devised in the hope of feeding off EEC pressure for stalkers to be forced by law to take tests before being allowed to shoot live prey. "We are nearly alone in the EEC in not having a statutory mandatory test," he said. "It seems to me only a matter of time before someone over there says 'the Brits are getting away with it'."

More than a quarter of Britain's wild deer population of about a million need to be culled every year to keep the total steady. There are more than 5,000 legitimate woodland stalkers and a large and unknown number of poachers.

Lord Amphill cleared of drink driving charge

Lord Amphill, aged 61, the Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords, was cleared yesterday of being in charge of a car with excess alcohol in his bloodstream.

Mr Terence Maher, the Bow Street Magistrate, said that although a breath test proved positive, there was evidence to show that Lord Amphill did not intend driving his car again on the evening of his arrest. Mr David Gates had said for the prosecution: "He was arrested in Curzon Street on June 14 after he had parked his car badly while picking up his wife from a restaurant."

But Lord Amphill had no intention of driving the car again that evening. Mr David Croft, QC, said for the defence. "He agreed that he had parked the car badly and told police he had been 'naughty'". He had had a drink in the restaurant, and handed the keys to police saying his intention was that his wife should drive them home.

Lord Grey gets bail on immoral earnings charge

Lord Grey, the Liberal peer and four other men, including a former prison governor, were remanded on bail yesterday until August 9 with living on immoral earnings.

Supt Peter Kruger of the Obscene Publications Squad, told Newham West magistrates in London that there was no police objection to bail.

Lord Grey, aged 44, lives on a houseboat at Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire. Also charged were Peter James, aged 64, former governor of Norwich prison, now retired, of Taverham, Norfolk; Brian Richards, aged 41, company director, of East Ham, London; Robert Johnson, aged 27, a managing director, of Leyton; and David Reed, aged 30, a sales assistant, of Ilford, Essex.

£25,000 gun raid

Two armed men fired several shots when they robbed a Security Express van of £25,000 at the Townsend Hook paper mill in Snodland, Kent, yesterday. No one was hurt.

New church image 'wanted by two in five'

Almost two in five people feel the church needs to change its image if it is to attract people, according to a nationwide Gallup survey of attitudes to religion.

But, a third of those questioned who do not go to church say God is important in their lives, the Bible Society, which commissioned the survey, said. The survey showed that nearly half of the population thought it was good to get married in church.

The Rev Tom Houston, executive director of the society, said yesterday: "The church still has an important place in the minds of the general population - certainly as far as ritual services such as christenings, weddings and funerals, are concerned."

A total of 15 per cent of those questioned said they went to church once a week or more, but 56 per cent did not go to church or went only for weddings, funerals or christenings.

More people go to church in East Anglia - 28 per cent going once a month or more - with the South-east having the lowest church attendance, at 19 per cent.

Mr Houston said the reason for the survey was to provide evidence of the religious state of England before the visit of Luis Palau, an Argentinian-born evangelist to London later this year and Billy Graham the American evangelist to the rest of the country in 1984. *Attitudes to Bible, God and Church*, Bible Society, 146 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4BX, (£3.50).

Battle over the Bard

The long standing dispute among literary critics over who wrote Shakespeare's plays emerges again next week when scholars from throughout the world gather at Sheffield University.

It will be the first international conference of the Marlowe Society of America, which believes Christopher Marlowe, not Shakespeare, wrote the plays. The case for the Bard will be put by the Shakespeare Association.

More fire: push costs up

The number of firemen in England and Wales is increasing and may soon reach the level of 1979, when Mrs Margaret Thatcher's first government started pressing for cuts in manpower to save money. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy reported the figures yesterday.

The cost of the fire service is expected to rise during 1983-84 by 10.6 per cent above the 1982-83 level, pushing the average cost of fire protection for every 1,000 people up to £11,049 a year.

Angler finds stolen silver

Half the silverware stolen on Tuesday from the Durham Light Infantry museum in Durham was found in the Tyne near Prudhoe by an angler yesterday.

The police think the rest of the £5,000 haul may have been washed downstream because of the recent heavy rain. An underwater unit will search the riverbed when the weather improves.

Single bliss

Miss Ellen May Boyall, who celebrated her 105th birthday in Kirklands Home, Kirby, Nottinghamshire, yesterday, explained her long life by saying: "Perhaps it is because I did not get married; I never had the desire to get married."

Ice rink blaze

The police suspect arson after an ice rink and discotheque valued at £120,000 in Westward Ho! north Devon, were severely damaged by fire early yesterday. The complex, owned by Mr Joseph Need, opened 10 days ago after long negotiations.

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Adrian and Richard Crane

Spending curbs needed to avoid higher interest rates

THE ECONOMY

The Government was determined to ensure that unplanned overspending did not divert it from its course and put recovery at risk, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, declared in the Commons in a statement outlining savings and other measures having an overall effect designed to reduce this year's likely public expenditure outturn by more than £1,000m.

He explained that the measures did not imply any reductions in the total, as published in the February White Paper, rather they were designed to bring spending closer to the course laid down in his predecessor's White Paper.

Amid Labour interruptions and protests, Mr Lawson said that cash limits for the current year would be reduced by 1 per cent in respect of pay and central government administrative costs and by 2 per cent for the remainder. The new cash limit figures would be announced as soon as possible.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury matters, labelled the statement "astonishing" and said that whatever it might do for the Chancellor's reputation as an axe-man, Mr Lawson had at a stroke destroyed the credibility and integrity of the Prime Minister, his predecessor, Sir Geoffrey Howe, and his colleagues. A disgraceful fraud and swindle had been perpetrated.

Mr Lawson said it was clear that public expenditure was running at a significantly higher level than was consistent with the 1982-83 ceiling total of £119.6 billion

announced in the Public Expenditure White Paper presented by the Chancellor on February 1.

Some assistance is clearly needed (he warned), and I have therefore decided that immediate action must be taken to bring about savings that will bring total spending closer to the planned path.

The effect of these measures (he said) will be to remove at least £500m of overspending beyond the planned spending total. In addition, the programme of asset sales during the current year will be increased by a further £500m.

Finally, I am also taking the opportunity to introduce some improvements in expenditure control. In particular, a scheme of end-year cash limits flexibility will be introduced. This will permit carry-forward of underspend on central Government capital programmes.

Such change has of course long been advocated by departments, with substantial capital programmes and expenditure stretching over a number of years.

The change, I believe is fully justified on managerial grounds but introducing it as from this financial year is a bold move, reducing expenditure over the end-year surge, reduce expenditure

for everyone to see and discuss and I wish that more discussion would be taken into account in the scores and the leaked documents which we have."

It is plain, four weeks later (he went on) that a disgraceful fraud and swindle has been perpetrated. Does he recall his own statement on Channel 4 television that a review of public expenditure was about to start?

Since it has taken the Chancellor exactly four weeks to produce and announce these measures involving £500m of cuts, and £500m in forced sale of public assets, what new factors have emerged this week to justify cuts which were not there a week ago or, for that matter, four weeks ago before the general election?

The only possible excuse for this political cynicism is his obsession with money supply and grovelling subservience to City opinion.

It is unthinkable, not only to the Labour Party but to the British people, that he should continue now with the Finance Bill proposals to give away £400m for the benefit of the rich while they continue to allow overseas while there are cuts in services to 95 per cent of people, including the disadvantaged and the poor.

The Chancellor should withdraw the Finance Bill unless he and the Prime Minister make an unreserved apology to the British people.

Mr Lawson: I understand Mr Shore's desire to make a good impression on his colleagues in the leadership stakes, but it would have assisted the House more if his comments had borne more relation to my statement.

controlling expenditure in real terms when prices are rising, but a slack market when the rate of inflation is falling rapidly as it is now. Will he consider some basic change in the system rather than the ad hoc measures of the kind he has introduced?"

Mr Lawson: I will consider what he has said. Inflation has been rising rather more slowly than we had expected.

Mr John Morris (Aberdeen, Lab): It is a remarkable coincidence that this great truth should be revealed exactly four weeks after the election.

In the commercial world people are put behind bars for issuing false prospectuses. Why is it that the Finance Bill is a remarkable coincidence that this great truth should be revealed exactly four weeks after the election.

Mr Lawson: I would have thought that more businessmen got to be behind bars for not sticking to their budgets.

The alternative of allowing this overspending to remain unchecked (he added later) would be higher interest rates.

Mr Norman Ashington (Totterham, Lab) said that even in terms of Thatcherite morality, the butchering of 50,000 jobs for the sake of a minimal effect on interest rates could not be justified.

Mr Matthew Parris (Derbyshire, West, C): Is this a very small cut, more than the difference between a good winter and a bad winter, why all the fuss for so small a prize?

Mr Lawson: That is a fair point but I would not consider the reduction of £1,000m in an overspend as insignificant.

Mr Harry Ewing (Falkirk, East, Lab) said that in view of the bad economic news from the building societies and petrol companies, and the Prime Minister saying during

the election that there was no bad economic news, it seems that Mr Lawson could not blame the people for thinking the Tory Party, led by the Prime Minister, had cheated them during the election.

Sir Kenneth Lewis (Stamford and Spalding, C): Which new public assets does he intend to sell to make up the £500m, over and above those already on the list?

Mr Lawson: He will be informed when the time is right. He would not wish me to reveal what might be market-sensitive information in a clumsy way.

Mr Timothy Smith (Beaconsfield, C): Why is it in this quarter of the fiscal year, that public spending is running so much in excess of the planned total? What action will be taken to ensure that such a wide discrepancy does not occur in future? Is there not a problem of public spending monitoring control?

Mr Lawson: I have mentioned one innovation which I hope will help, I hope to agree with my ministerial colleagues a better system of information flows.

Mr Michael Forman (Cardinal and Wellington, C): Does his decision reveal an underlying doctrine that whenever and wherever demand-driven public spending rises, discretionary public expenditure will have to be reduced further?

Mr Lawson: There is no automatic formula. It is a matter of judgment.

Mr Richard Douglas (Dumfriesshire, West, Lab): This is a clear indication of Government economic mismanagement which has occurred in the previous year. There was no reduction in total expenditure in the health service below the total figure in the public expenditure White Paper.

investment overseas. It helps our overseas competitors the better to compete against us.

Mr Lawson: I am not sure that exchange controls did not miss a once-and-for-all increase in this hemisphere, it increases every year. The Government should examine this with a view to exercising some control.

Mr Moore: The abolition of exchange controls has created for pensioners and pensioners' investment institutions enormous opportunities for them to create assets overseas which will be of long-term benefit to this country.

Mr Iver Stambrook (Orpington, C) said the Committee on Invisible Exports reported that surplus investment income from abroad in 1981 was nearly \$3,500m, showing the advantage to Britain of exchange control abolition.

Mr Moore: That is right. Not only does it show we have net short term investment in 1978, Britain, because of the abolition of exchange controls, has £37,500m of investment assets overseas.

Labour, wishing to get more jobs (he added) will appreciate that in the last three years there has been £1,000m of investment in the UK to help job creation here.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs: As this year we have no balance of payments surplus on current account, it is time the Government changed its strategy on the unutilised export of capital and reintroduced sensible exchange controls.

Mr Moore: He ignores the British success story and the economic reality. Intelligent use of our asset base in the last four years has cut our total overseas debts from £23,000m to £12,000m.

market and does not know which sense he is going to sell."

Mr Lawson: That was not precisely what I said. Inflation is rising more slowly, prices are rising more slowly than we had earlier expected, and the recovery is going ahead a little bit quicker than was expected at the time of the Budget. So the economy is on course.

The purpose of this adjustment of public spending on the borrowing requirement is to keep it on course. It is by keeping it on course that the best prospect for jobs arises.

Mr Derek Foster (Bishop Auckland, Lab): This is a desperate attempt to avoid putting up interest rates which the logic of his own policies implies. If that happens it will cut off his thin and patchy recovery.

Mr Lawson: I have no wish to see interest rates rise unnecessarily. This is not a desperate attempt. It is merely a prudent measure to bring public expenditure closer to the figures published and approved.

Mr Alfred Dubs (Battersea, Lab): On what date did he first become aware that he would have to take the steps he has just announced?

Mr Lawson: There is a continual flow of information about the course of the financial year. It comes week by week, almost day by day. Eventually a picture emerges. When that picture emerges, I thought it time action had to be taken.

Mr Lawson said later that despite the reduction in the cash limits he had announced, defence expenditure this year would still be three per cent in real terms higher than in the previous year. There was no reduction in total expenditure in the health service below the total figure in the public expenditure White Paper.

Government will help draft hanging Bill

PM's QUESTIONS

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said that if the Commons voted next week to restore capital punishment, she expected the Bill to be introduced by a private member.

The Government would help with the drafting and would provide time for the Bill to be introduced and debated during the current session.

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House of Commons, announced that the debate on restoration of the death penalty would be next Wednesday.

Mr David Wilmick (Walsall North, Lab) said: "Gang questions to the Prime Minister. Restoring capital punishment for terrorism would not in any way deter terrorism in Northern Ireland."

Mrs Thatcher: As we are likely to have this matter before us, it seems to me that debate is the appropriate place to put that argument.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, Lib) were there to be a vote in favour of a return to capital punishment for any category of murder next week, is the Government's position that there will be an early Government Bill on which Cabinet ministers would be expected to vote in a whipped vote?

Mrs Thatcher: On that matter,

there has always been a free vote. If there were to be a Bill introduced consequently, I would expect it to be by a private member.

I would expect the Government to undertake to provide all possible assistance to that MP because I would consider that to be in accordance with the wishes of the House. I would expect the Government to provide time for the Bill to be introduced and debated during the current session.

Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent, South, Lab): Although I think the Prime Minister is quite right to suggest we should suspend judgement on capital punishment until the debate on Wednesday, my opinion is important to the few waverers behind her, when she is making up her mind will she bear in mind the experience of my constituent John Brown who served eight years in jail for murder and was then released because it was found he was convicted on crooked forensic evidence. He would have been hanged if we had capital punishment. (Loud cheers.)

Mrs Thatcher: We will cast make up our own minds on how to vote. Capital punishment is a punishment that is available, even if it was passed by the House, not as it was in previous days when it was the only punishment available. There is a very great difference and after the debate, we shall know whether the matter will be taken further or not.

Enormous assets being created for Britain

TREASURY

Opposition MPs criticized the amount of British money going abroad and called for the reintroduction of sensible exchange controls after Mr John Moore, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said in the Commons that newly identified private and other capital transactions abroad in the year to 1983, quarter 1, totalled £2,400m.

One beneficiary is the UK, as a result of the creation of enormous assets for Britain which will be useful for our children and grandchildren.

Mr Ronald Leighton (Newham North East, Lab): It is frightening and damaging to our national security when UK investment in UK industry has reduced by one third compared with 1979, that we have this massive haemorrhage of investment overseas. It helps our overseas competitors the better to compete against us.

Mr Lawson: I am not sure that exchange controls did not miss a once-and-for-all increase in this hemisphere, it increases every year. The Government should examine this with a view to exercising some control.

Mr Moore: The abolition of exchange controls has created for pensioners and pensioners' investment institutions enormous opportunities for them to create assets overseas which will be of long-term benefit to this country.

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Labour, wishing to get more jobs (he added) will appreciate that in the last three years there has been £1,000m of investment in the UK to help job creation here.

Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs: As this year we have no balance of payments surplus on current account, it is time the Government changed its strategy on the unutilised export of capital and reintroduced sensible exchange controls.

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Cable television Bill before Christmas

HOUSE OF LORDS

The Government hoped it might be possible to introduce the Bill on cable television systems in the House of Lords before Christmas, Viscount Whitelaw, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House, announced in the Lords when he opened a debate on the Government's White Paper on cable systems and services. This was because there resided in the Lords so much experience of broadcasting and new technology, he explained.

Viscount Whitelaw said it would be all too easy to miss the considerable opportunities presented by the development of cable systems through controversy between the competing interests of those who were most concerned with broadcasting standards and those who had their eyes set on the exciting new technology.

The Government's conviction was that cable expansion offered a number of worthwhile possibilities and that the conditions should be created in which it was possible to be realized by enabling privately financed development to respond to the market and to give it as much freedom as possible to meet the demands of the public.

On the possibility, suggested by the Hunt Committee, of providing a veto on cable on sensitive programmes he commented: My experience as a father and grandfather leaves me to doubt the ability of parents to outwit children of this generation when it comes to technology or mechanical matters. (Laughter.)

All his natural instincts and experience led him to fear that in their enthusiasm for technological advance they might be tempted as a nation to be careless of broadcasting standards and be in danger of sacrificing much of the value that had been built up through broadcasting institutions.

He was however convinced that this had been avoided and that the right basis had been found which would preserve the right balance between the two interests which had such great economic potential in the best interests of the nation.

Lord Pannofy of Shillburne, for the Opposition, said cable television was another innovation whose introduction seemed irresistible but he questioned whether it was right to rush into this new revolution without taking full cognisance of the technological developments already on the horizon.

He did not necessarily believe cable would be the bonanza that commercial television had been in the early years. The attraction and the cost to the viewer of the additional channels, when he already had access to a free channel of a video lending library, might not be all that great.

Lord Nugent of Guildford (C) said that on many occasions society had been expressed about the deteriorating standards in TV programmes both on the BBC and on ITV. There was more violence and more pornography introduced and more bad language than ever before. They existed to try to see it checked and not increased.

The 1959 Obscene Publications Act was a broken reed and could not be regarded as an effective safeguard for the standards that they all believed should be maintained.

Lord Willis, for the Opposition, said the Hunt Committee suggested that there should be a decency switch or key on all sets. They had studied the history of the Crusades. They had decency keys which they called chastity belts. The result was the locksmith had a great time and the chastity belt went out of fashion. (Laughter.)

A nation could be corrupted by pap as well as by porn. It could be argued that porn stimulated while pap merely reduced the brain to a state of torpor. There was an awful lot of pap around, especially in America. The temptation for cable would be to buy in this material.

The debate was concluded.

Wigan pier grant for renovation

ENVIRONMENT

A further 21 projects approved for grant under the urban development grant scheme were announced by Mr William Waldegrave, Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, in the Commons.

This was an additional total investment of £63m, made up of £51m of private money and £12m of public money, he said when moving the second reading of the Local Authorities (Expenditure Powers) Bill. This brought the total number of schemes approved to date to 93 and total investment so far to £216m.

He said the Bill was introduced in response to doubts expressed by some local authorities as to their powers to make grants in support of Urban Development projects. The Grant Scheme was an imaginative

one to encourage improvement of many sites in the inner cities.

The authorities concerned in the further 21 projects given approval were: Birmingham, Bradford, Dudley, the GLC, the Greater Manchester Council, Greenwich, Hackney, Knowsley, Lambeth, Liverpool, Wandsworth, Wigan and Wolverhampton.

The projects covered commercial and industrial projects, housing projects and leisure schemes

including renovation of Wigan Pier. They demonstrated the variety of ways in which urban regeneration could be achieved and how public money could often be used to greater effect in the inner cities attracting much larger amounts of private investment.

They demonstrated the commitment not only of central and local government but of the interest of the private sector to the slow but essential lack of restoring hope to areas where the properties might often look hopeless.

Dr David Clark, an Opposition spokesman on environment (South Shields, Lab), said the Bill showed that public money could create jobs and improve the environment and for that reason the Opposition was in support of it.

Mr William Mitchell (Sheffield, Healey, Lab) in a maiden speech said taking away too much of local government's freedom and applying too much control removed a safety valve crucial in democracy. The Bill was read a second time and passed its remaining stages.

US steel import restrictions condemned

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on youth training scheme.

The imposition of such import restrictions by the United States was deplorable, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister said in the Commons.

Mr Neil Thorne (Hord South, C) asked: her: Does she share the widespread concern over the action of the US Government in imposing such import restrictions?

Mrs Thatcher: I agree with him. I think it is a deplorable action on the part of the United States, especially coming so soon after Williamsburg and an undertaking to try to reduce protectionism instead of increasing it.

There will be a meeting of the European Commission to decide what action to take under the Gatt.

The Foreign Secretary (Sir Geoffrey Howe) will be talking the matter up with the other Foreign Secretaries in the Community tomorrow (Friday). The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Mr Cecil Parkinson) is raising the matter with the American trade representative.

Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

Monday: Proceedings on International Monetary Arrangements Bill and on Companies (Beneficial Interests) Bill. Greater London Council (Money) Bill, second reading.

Tuesday: Finance Bill, committee.

Wednesday: Debate on the death penalty.

Thursday: Finance Bill, remaining stages.

Friday: Private member's motion

on the future of the younger generation.

The main business in the House of Lords will be:

Tuesday: Occupiers' Liability Bill and Small Charities Bill, second readings. Debate on invalidity benefits for married women.

Wednesday: Debate on world hunger and the world food crisis.

Thursday: Lotteries (Amendment) Bill, second reading. Appropriation (No 2) (Northern Ireland) Order. Debate on scientific procedure on living animals.

University vouchers under study

Civil servants at the Department of Education and Science are preparing a paper on the feasibility of university vouchers for students in higher education at the request of Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education and Science.

Sir Keith dropped the idea of a voucher scheme for schools in the House of Commons this week but he has agreed in response to pressure from certain university vice-chancellors, particularly Dr Graham Hills of Strathclyde, to examine vouchers for students.

Under such a scheme students would be given a voucher to cover all or part of the cost of their degree course, assuming that full-cost fees were charged instead of the present nominal £480 a year.

Vouchers in higher education would be much easier to administer than in schools where Sir Keith admitted they would run into "great difficulties" in turning the idea into practicality.

The idea for a paper on student vouchers came out of Mr Hills' request to Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education and Science.

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Teachers of physics 'ignorant'

Physics teachers are an ignorant and parochial lot who have little idea of technological developments, according to Professor Tom Stoner, professor of science and society at Bradford University.

If they are unable to teach about the world as it is being shaped by science then they should be reeducated, he says in an article in the latest issue of *Physics Education*, published by the Institute of Physics.

The blame for the woeful ignorance of physicists is laid at the door of the education system which, Professor Stoner says, is hierarchical, snobbish and confuses the talent to do well in examinations with the ability to tackle crises in the real world. "For those who merely want to learn about the world they live in, most science teaching is irrelevant."

Professor Stoner adds that he is astonished at how little is taught about nuclear weapons, solid state physics, transistors, how micro work, what is the historical development of that technology and what are some of the likely future technical developments.

"I have yet to encounter a nuclear physicist who can talk informally about either photovoltaic cells or their implications for the world economy. The failure to prepare students properly for the world they live in creates the kind of public resentment which breeds ill for educators."

"If the education system cannot upgrade its own human capital, then the Manpower Services Commission, home-based computer systems or some other outside development will make schools increasingly irrelevant."

Law Report July 8 1983 House of Lords

Special voucher refusal not appealable

Regina v Entry Clearance Officer, Bombay, Ex parte Amin

Baroness Lord Fraser of Tullyhenny, Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Scarman, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook and Lord Brightman (Speeches delivered July 7)

A special voucher was not a document falling within section 33(1) of the Immigration Act 1971. Therefore, there was no right of appeal against its refusal under section 33(2). Although the special voucher scheme was discriminatory on the ground of sex, the discrimination was not unlawful under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

The House of Lords by a majority dismissed an appeal by Mrs Bhadrabai Arvindbhai Amin from the Court of Appeal Lord Justice Ormrod, Lord Justice Dillon and Lord Justice Waterhouse on June 5, 1981 (unreported), who dismissed her appeal from the Divisional Court Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Goff and Mr Justice Webster) on April 30, 1980 (1 WLR 1530) who dismissed Mrs Amin's application for judicial review.

The 1971 Act provides: "(2) Subject to the provisions of this part of this Act, a person who, on an application duly made, is refused a certificate of entry or an entry clearance may appeal to an adjudicator against the refusal."

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Lawyer's son found guilty of murder in trial that gripped Spanish society

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid

The son of a Spanish lawyer was yesterday found guilty, at the end of a sensational trial, of murdering his millionaire, aristocratic parents-in-law, Rafael Escobedo Alday, aged 29, was sentenced to a total of 53 years imprisonment for shooting dead the Marquis and Marchioness of Urquijo in the Madrid suburb of Somosiaguas in August 1980. He was ordered to pay 20m pesetas (about £90,000) to his estranged wife, Miryam de la Sierra Urquijo, and her brother Juan, the present marquis.



Rafael Escobedo: Shot his aristocratic in-laws.

Scanty evidence against Escobedo and the disappearance of vital ballistic evidence from judicial custody sparked wide interest in the trial, which started on June 21. The judgment said Escobedo felt ostracized by the murdered couple and blamed their disapproval for the break-up of his marriage. This was one of the reasons for the murder, the judgment said, adding that there were probably others which had not come to light.

Escobedo was arrested in April 1981 after police recovered, at his country house, 265 pistol cartridges which allegedly tallied with four found near the bodies. These cartridges were stolen from the court just before the start of the trial. The murder weapon was never found.



Miryam Urquijo: Their marriage broke up

Escobedo confessed to the murder soon after his arrest, but later retracted, saying he made the confession to stop harassment of his family. His lawyer said Escobedo, who has been in custody since his arrest, was the victim of a police plot to pressure him into a confession. Court officials said he would not serve more than 30 years of his sentence.

The trial attracted large crowds at the Madrid Palace of Justice, despite the summer heat, because the public was fascinated not only by an Agatha Christie thriller-like look at the inner workings of one of Spain's best known aristocratic families and former owners of the country's most exclusive banks, both brought low in recent years, but also by disclosures at the trial itself.

Members of the public were delighted by descriptions of the world of major-domos and faithful estate managers, and the spicy overtones, such as an American, suspected by Spaniards following the trial, of being a secret agent and lover of Escobedo's estranged wife. It was also learnt that the late Marquis, as an active member of Opus Dei, intended to leave some of his money to the right-wing Roman Catholic lay organization.

Youde gives little away after visit to Britain

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain and China had achieved a better understanding of each other's positions on Hongkong, Sir Edward Youde, the Governor, said on his return to the British colony yesterday.

But Sir Edward, who had just spent two days in consultations with Mrs Margaret Thatcher and other ministers and officials in Whitehall, refused to comment further on the Anglo-Chinese negotiations on Hongkong which resume in Peking next week.

He will be attending these for the first time since they began last September, although Britain will continue to be represented by Sir Percy Cradock, ambassador in Peking. The British and Chinese Governments are seeking agreement over the sovereignty and administration of the colony after the expiry of Britain's lease on the New Territories in 1997.

Nor was there any comment in Whitehall on the report in *Asia Week* magazine that China had promised to find room for a capitalist Hongkong within its communist republic by rewriting part of its own Constitution.

There has been speculation on a compromise of this kind that might enable China to resume sovereignty over Hongkong without silence, describing the *Asia Week* report as the latest in a long line of speculative articles in the press.



Birthday delight: Mrs Nancy Reagan, 60 on Wednesday, admires a cake presented by her White House staff.

Kohl goes home well satisfied with his Soviet contact

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

Chancellor Helmut Kohl flew home from Kiev yesterday afternoon, leaving a critical Soviet press to express the irritation of his hosts with his firm stand on medium-range missiles and forthright remarks about German reunification.

While in Kiev Dr Kohl held talks with Mr Vladimir Shcherbitsky, the Ukrainian party leader, and visited the city's famous monastery. He said he was fully satisfied with his four-day visit here, during which he went out of his way to pay tribute to the intellectual agility of Mr Yuri Andropov, despite his health problems.

Pravda yesterday criticized Dr Kohl for his frequent references to "Germany" and "the Germans", reminding him that since the end of the war there have been two German states.

Despite the political differences, Dr Kohl's amiable manner appears to have made a good impression on the Russians and figures published on Wednesday show that in the vital area of trade, the two countries have closer links than ever.

REYKJAVIK: It was up to the Soviet Union to come forward with a new proposal to end the deadlock at the Geneva arms reduction talks. Vice-President George Bush said here yesterday (AP reports). Speaking at a news conference on the final day of an eight-nation tour of Western Europe, he said: "President Reagan is willing to negotiate and people in (Western) Europe have come to know that our way, President Reagan's way, is the way of peace and arms reduction. Reagan wants peace."

Security accord in sight

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Diplomats from both East and West attending the European security review conference were yesterday privately expressing hopes that agreement could be announced today on a final document to conclude the more than two-and-a-half-year long gathering.

Amid much to-ing and fro-ing of texts for a chairman's statement to accompany the document, the Soviet Union was said to have agreed on all the points in a compromise

package proposed by Spain last month to save the conference. Several Western delegates hope the chief US delegate will bring final approval with him from Washington today. Among the final points being tackled was the wording taken from the 1975 Helsinki Final Act on detente. This will accompany the chairman's closing statement on, among other things, an expert meeting on human contacts in Switzerland in 1986.

New York justice 'almost nil'

The judge who lets criminals go free

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

The overworked New York judge looked at his long list of cases and decided on drastic action. He called a dozen defendants before him and told them: "Your cases are dismissed." Scot-free and scarcely able to believe their luck, they left the court.

Later that day the judge did the same thing with another batch of defendants. "I have too many cases and this is one way of dealing with them," he said. "People leave my court knowing they have got away with it."

The desperate way in which some judges try to cope with their sisyphian task is symptomatic of the crisis in New York's lower courts. A ramshackle and overloaded conveyor-belt of cases is breaking down.

Judges and officials working in dirty and overcrowded courts are overwhelmed by the torrent of cases. A senior judge said that the quality of justice "is almost nil".

With justices handling more than 100 cases a day each, the system keeps going only because most are dismissed or settled by plea bargaining, with defendants getting lighter sentences in return for saving the courts time and money. There is so much plea bargaining and dismissal that only one case in 200 goes to trial.

Some people who feel themselves innocent of charges plead guilty simply to get out of the time-consuming congestion.

People scoff at the courts' inefficiencies. Three-quarters of all summonses remain unanswered and there is a backlog of 3.7 million of them. A clerk said: "But if everyone showed up we would be in a mess."

The lower courts, the equivalent of magistrates' courts in Britain are "an institution in the throes of collapse," says *The New York Times*, which has made a thorough investigation. "Rarely has any public institution been held in such open contempt by those who work in it and those who pass through it. It functions only to the extent that it sacrifices justice to expediency." A judge remarked that the lower courts work "like old-time frontier justice".

The crisis stems partly from New York's financial troubles in the 1970s and the decision to switch more money and resources to tackling serious crimes, and to the higher courts.

The New York Times comments: "As the lower court sinks, it hauls down the credibility of the entire system."

The city Bar Association has criticized large-scale dismissals as a way of clearing judges' lists, saying: "These judicial excesses contribute to a sense of lawlessness (but) they reflect judicial frustration over a vastly overburdened system."

The difficulties of the lower courts are making clear to New Yorkers that there are no easy answers to the problems of crime and punishment in their city. Politicians make strong speeches on law and order, but the judicial system does not have the resources to cope. The police need to appear tough and to make numerous arrests, but many criminals know they will get off lightly.

"The prisons are already full," a judge said. "If the system were more efficient what would we do with all these people?"

Another veto by generals in Turkey

Ankara (AP) - Turkey's ruling generals yesterday demonstrated once again their determination to keep strict control over political developments by vetoing most of the founding members of a new conservative party.

The five-member National Security Council crossed out the names of 30 of the 34 people who set up the Righteous Road Party two weeks ago. The council is empowered by new political party and election laws to pass judgment on founding members of the parties and their lists of candidates for Parliament in general elections in November.

The conservative party was reportedly formed by sympathizers of the disbanded Justice Party of Mr Suleyman Demirel, the former Prime Minister.

So far only three parties have been cleared to start organizing branches throughout the country. They are the conservative National Democracy Party of retired General Turgut Sunalp, the free-market-oriented Motherland Party of Mr Turgut Ozal and the Social Democrat Populist Party of Mr Necdet Culp, a former provincial governor. Mr Sunalp's party enjoys the obvious support of the generals.

On Wednesday, the council laid down "rules of behaviour" for the parties. A council announcement said the parties could publish booklets and magazines to explain their programmes, advertise in newspapers for the same purpose and hold ceremonies for branch openings after getting permission from military authorities.

Executives of Rumasa go for trial

From Harry Debellus, Madrid

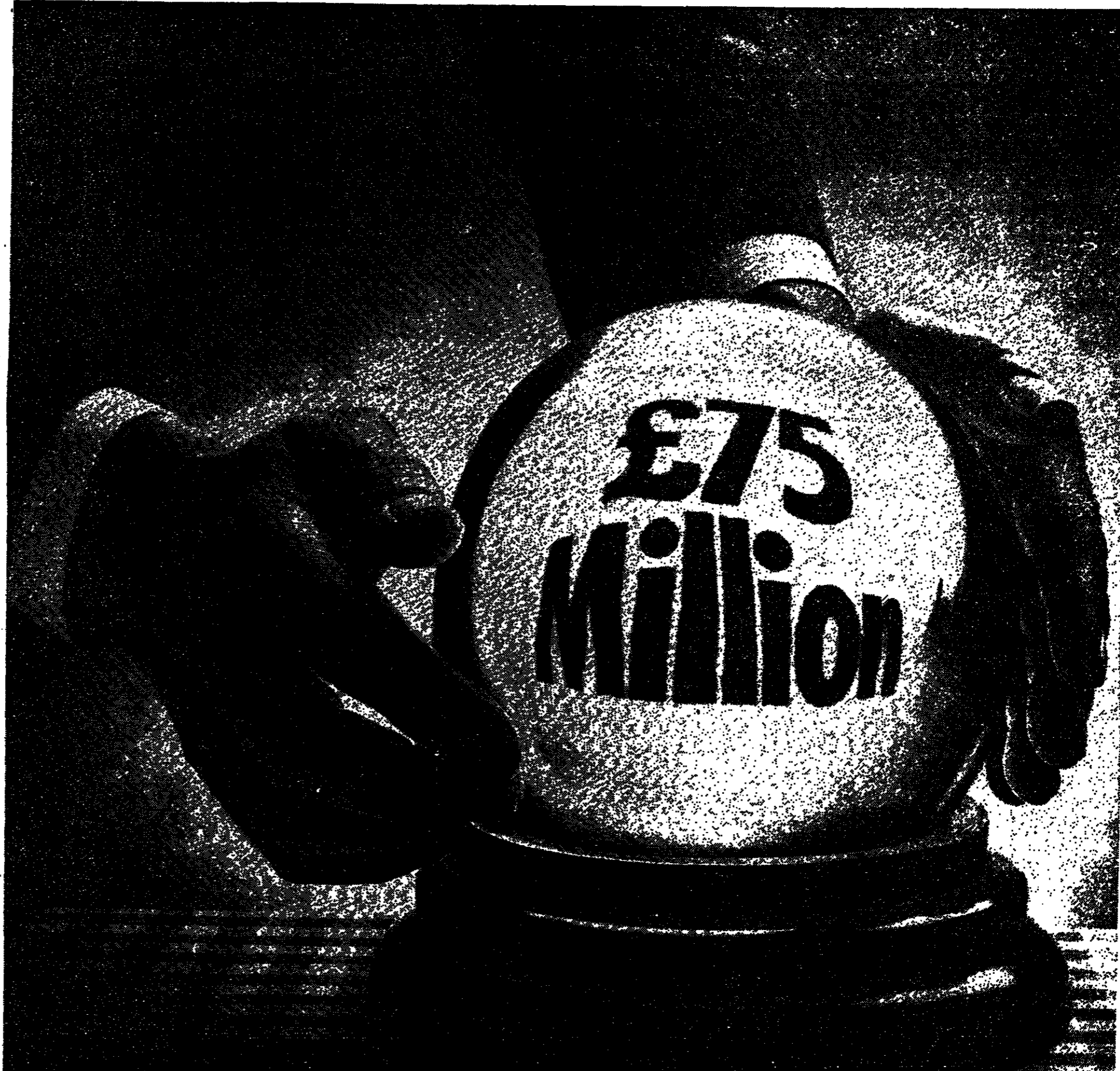
An investigating magistrate ordered Senior José Maria Ruiz Mateos, the expropriated owner of Rumasa, Spain's biggest private building company before its recent nationalization, to stand trial in Madrid on four charges relating to his administration of the company.

He was also ordered to put up 100 million pesetas (£470m) to cover his possible responsibilities, a Justice Ministry official confirmed here yesterday.

Senior Ruiz Mateos, who is 52 and now in London, is charged with violation of currency regulations, accounting fraud, withholding social security funds and embezzlement of taxes.

The charges were based on accusations made by a government-appointed prosecutor in April and May after the confiscation of his huge business empire by decree last February. The decree was subsequently ratified by Parliament, in which the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party has an absolute majority.

Also charged in the same case were two former Rumasa executives, José Diaz Hidalgo, who is believed to be in London, and Carlos Quintas Alvarez. Senior Diaz Hidalgo was also ordered to put up bonds of 100 billion pesetas on top of bail of 10m pesetas. The formal charges opened the way for the Spanish Government to seek the extradition of the business tycoon, even though there is no formal extradition treaty between Spain and Britain.



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Iranian hijackers surrender in Paris after plea by exiled Mujahedin leader

Six Iranian hijackers, who threatened to blow up an Iran Air Boeing 747 with nearly 200 passengers on board at Orly airport, gave themselves up to French police yesterday afternoon and were found to have no explosives and to possess only two revolvers between them.

As soon as the aircraft had arrived it was surrounded by police and sharpshooters from the elite GIGN, the French equivalent of the British SAS. But the hijackers, claiming to have 5.5lb of TNT explosives, submachine guns and pistols, threatened to blow it up unless the police withdrew.

The aircraft carrying 300 passengers was hijacked on an internal flight between Tehran and Shiraz on Wednesday. After touching down at Kuwait for refuelling, where 186 people, mostly women and children, were released, it took off again and headed for Europe.

France refused to permit either to fly over French airspace or to land. But after circling over Switzerland all night, the hijackers ordered the pilot to fly to Paris, where the aircraft touched down at Orly at 6.40 GMT yesterday morning with nearly 200 passengers still on board and 18 crew.

The hijackers claimed to belong to the left-wing Mujahedin-e-Khalq, the main opposition movement in Iran, whose leader, Mr Massoud Rajavi, took refuge in France two years ago together with Mr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the former Iranian Prime Minister who was deposed by Ayatollah Khomeini.

From Diana Geddes, Paris

However, Mr Rajavi, who was contacted by the French authorities after the hijackers demanded to speak to him, denied that they were members of the Mujahedin, saying that if they were, they would not have come to France as that would only increase the Iranian Government's pressure on France - a country which had granted him exile.

After talking to Mr Rajavi, who arrived at the airport in a police helicopter soon after 2pm GMT, the hijackers themselves changed their story and said that they had carried out their action "off their own bat" in order "that the world should learn about the crimes of Khomeini. We are Iranian patriots opposed to the Ayatollah Khomeini's regime."



Giving up: A hijacker at a cockpit window

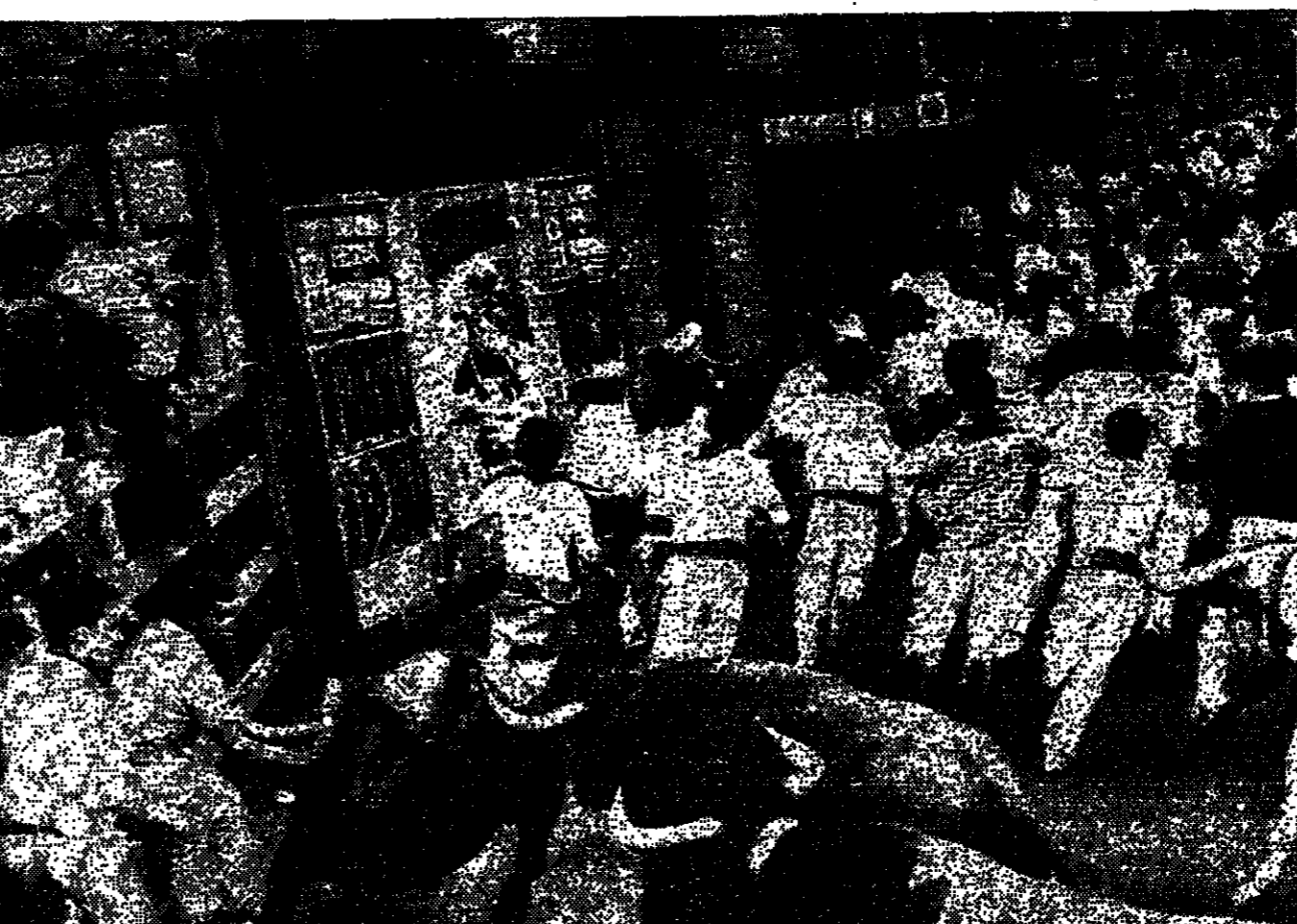
Just before 3pm, after more than eight hours in intense heat on the airport runway, the remaining 179 passengers were released by the hijackers in return for the granting of their request to speak to Mr Rajavi. They looked tired, but otherwise in good health.

Earlier, five people, including one of the co-pilots, had been taken off by ambulance for first aid treatment at the airport medical centre after being taken ill. They included a young Iranian soldier who appeared badly shocked and delirious, and kept insisting that he was being fighting in the war.

The co-pilot later returned to the aircraft and remained on board with the other 17 crew while negotiations continued by radio from the airport control tower between Mr Rajavi and the hijackers. It was Mr Rajavi who persuaded the six men to give themselves up to the GIGN sharpshooters who had stayed on the runway, hidden behind sand sheds and barriers, a few hundred yards from the aircraft.

M Max Gallo, the government spokesman, said last night that the hijackers would be prosecuted for infringement of international law, even if it was decided to grant them political asylum in France. He hastened to add that he was speaking hypothetically.

The Iranian Embassy in Paris expressed its relief that no blood had been spilt, but protested that Mr Rajavi, who was regarded as a terrorist by the Iranian Government, should have been elevated to the moral status of mediator.



Hoofing it: Spaniards in white suits and red sashes sprinting before the bulls through the streets of Pamplona yesterday on the opening day of the annual Festival of San Fermín that lasts for a week.

Kidnap call on Agca admitted by Vatican

Rome (Reuters) - The Vatican said yesterday it had heard from someone claiming contact with the kidnapers of a Vatican employee's daughter who are demanding release of Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turk who tried to kill the Pope in 1981.

The Vatican spokesman, Father Romeo Panciroli, said: "It is true that late Tuesday morning a telephone call was received by an office of the Holy See with a message for the Secretariate of State."

A man claiming to represent the kidnapers of 15-year-old Emanuela Orlando told the Ansa news agency by telephone that they had asked the Pope to press the Italian Government to free Mr Agca, who was sentenced to life imprisonment in July 1981.

Father Panciroli denied press reports that the Vatican had heard from the kidnapers before the Pope appealed last Sunday for the safe return of Emanuela, who vanished in Rome on June 22.

Ukrainian kills himself in US

Lynn, Massachusetts (AP) - A 63-year-old Ukrainian immigrant, Michael Popczuk, despondent after he was accused in newspaper articles of brutalizing and murdering Jews in the Second World War found a rifle his wife had hidden and shot himself to death in his home police said.

In New York a federal judge ruled that Edoardus Matkovskis, 76, an accused war criminal, may stay in the US though he allegedly helped the Nazis slaughter 20,000 Jews in Latvia. Federal immigration authorities are expected to appeal.

Space ants die on shuttle

New York (NYT) - The first ants in space did not survive. About a hundred went into orbit with the US space shuttle Challenger on its recent flight.

They travelled in a special canister for an experiment by New Jersey schoolchildren. The cause of death is not known.

Dissident's visit

New York (Reuters) - Soviet authorities have allowed Mr Anurov Shternsky to see his mother and brother at Chistop prison for the first time since January, 1982, according to the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry. Mr Shternsky is in the fifth year of a 13-year sentence for treason.

Banker accused

Paris (Reuters) - M Pierre Moussa, former chairman of the French bank Paribas, three of his principal officers, and 63 customers have been charged with serious currency control violations and will go on trial next December, court officials said. Paribas was nationalized by the Socialists soon after they took power.

Police peace

Buenos Aires (Reuters) - Argentine police in the northern province of Tucuman have ended a four-day rebellion over pay and working conditions, agreeing to enter fresh talks with the Government, but nearly all the country's schools were closed by a teachers' strike for more money.

Crash kills 44

Ankara (AP) - A lorry packed with farmworkers careened off the road, south-east of Ankara and plunged into a ravine, killing 44 passengers and injuring 17. The workers were travelling from the town of Alpullu to a new job site.

Border appeal

Cotonou (AFP) - Upper Volta and Mali are to take their respective cases to the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Mr Michel Kafando, Upper Volta's Foreign Minister, said here. Senegal has been asked to act as a mediator.

Cannabis haul

Stockholm - The Swedish Drugs Squad had by yesterday fished up from the seabed off Gotenborg on the west coast 19 waterproof sacks containing more than half a ton of cannabis with a street value of £5m. It is the biggest single drugs haul made in Sweden.

Airport strike

Lisbon (AP) - Portugal's state airline, TAP-AIR Portugal, cancelled most international and internal flights yesterday because of a 24-hour strike for more pay by ground staff at Lisbon airport.

Bistro victim

Paris (AFP) - Jean-Luc Attia, aged 22, is seriously ill in hospital after drinking a carafe of water in a Paris bistro which was pure caustic soda. The bistro owner said the caustic soda had been intended for the washers-up, but reached the service counter by mistake.

Appeal by locked-out staff of Rome paper

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The editor and 17 members of the staff of Rome's principal English-language newspaper, the Daily American, will launch an appeal today to the court to support them in their efforts for reinstatement. They say that the newspaper's main shareholder, Mr Robert Cunningham has locked them out.

Mr Christopher Winner, the dismissed editor, maintains that he regards himself as still legally filling the chair even if physically he is not permitted to do so. He maintains that Mr Cunningham has now made himself editor in an illegal move.

Mr Winner says that the 15 American and two Canadian employees are owed three weeks' backpay. His editorial writing had been under criticism, he says, by officials of the Republican Party in the US on the ground that it attacked some of President Reagan's policies.

Mr Cunningham is said to have ambitions to run for the Senate and meanwhile to return to the United States and take a post with the Republican national committee.

Mr Winner says that over the past few months financial difficulties have led to discussions about reducing staff though both circulation and advertising were rising. He also gave an undertaking to curb his criticisms of the President for a time because he wanted, he says, to save the newspaper.

Sex enters French spy scandal

From Our Own Correspondent Paris

Parisian society is intrigued by the extraordinary affair of the French diplomat spy and the Chinese opera singer.

First the spy scandal broke when M Bernard Bourisot, the diplomat, was arrested on Tuesday and charged with passing secrets to Peking.

New spice has been added to the plot with yesterday's arrest of Shi Pei Pu, the singer with whom he lived in Paris. What baffled the police is that they do not know what sex the singer is.

The authorities have ordered a medical examination to determine Shi Pei Pu's sex and charged him or her with complicity in spying.

The singer, who works with the Peking Opera, claims to be a woman but is registered as a man. M Bourisot is believed to have met Shi Pei Pu during the time he worked as a junior official in the French Embassy in Peking in the 1960s and early 1970s.

He is alleged to have passed secrets to a Chinese intelligence agent by the name of Kang between 1969 and 1972 concerning the Soviet Union, Hungary, India, the United States and France.

Chad tops agenda in Cairo

From Robert Holloway Cairo

Mr Robert Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and M Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, paid separate lightning visits to Cairo yesterday for talks with President Mubarak which centered on Western concern over the Libyan-backed insurrection in Chad.

Egypt and France have provided weapons for the Government of President Hissne Habre of Chad, whose forces were reported on Wednesday to have launched a counter-offensive against insurgents led by Mr Goukouni Oueddei, the former President. Speaking to reporters after he had conferred with M Cheysson, however, Mr Mubarak said that the Egyptian Foreign Minister excluded the possibility that Egypt might send troops to Chad.

Officials said that during a meeting which lasted for 70 minutes, Mr Mubarak and M Cheysson also discussed the Gulf War and the problem of Lebanon.

● PARIS: Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, yesterday threatened to send to some of Chad's neighbours quantities of military aid similar to those President Habre was now receiving (AFP reports).

● NDJAMENA: Government forces have counterattacked rebel positions in a second day of fighting at Oum Chabouba, an oasis crossroads in northern Chad, according to officials in the capital (AP reports).

● GENEVA: Senior Javier Perez de Cuellar the UN Secretary-General said that foreign intervention in Chad was, to his knowledge, limited to arms supplies and that he did not intend taking any action over events there unless called upon (AFP reports).

Shultz admits mission failure

From Moshe Brilliant Tel Aviv

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, publicly acknowledged yesterday that his Middle East tour had achieved nothing substantive about the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon but he said the United States was committed not to give up pursuit of the goal.

He talked informally to journalists outside the Prime Minister's office in Jerusalem after meeting Menachem Begin and senior officials of the Foreign Ministry and the defence establishment.

Having failed to get Syrian consent to a total and simultaneous withdrawal by the forces of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Mr Shultz discussed the Israeli proposal for a unilateral pull-back from the Beirut suburbs and the Shouf mountains.

Israeli sources said Mr Shultz had been "unenthusiastic" but did not dispute the legitimacy of and entrenchment in the rest of the occupied territory would lead to a de facto partition of Lebanon between Israel and Syria with the Gemayel Government retaining only a principality around Beirut.

The Israelis said they would consult the Americans and the Lebanese but their first consideration must be the security of Israel.

● TUNIS: Palestinian mediators left Tunis for Damascus again yesterday to resume conciliation efforts with PLO dissidents and Syria (Reuters reports).

They had returned the day before from Damascus after apparently failing to reconcile Syria and the rebels with Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman. They were not carrying any new proposals yesterday but were determined to pursue their efforts until they achieved a result, a spokesman said.

Mr Arafat also sent an envoy to Saudi Arabia and his Gulf allies to seek their help

Wazzan escapes Beirut blast

From Kate Dourian, Beirut

A car packed with explosives and land mines parked near the Government House in West Beirut, exploded yesterday morning moments before Mr Chafic al Wazzan, the Prime Minister, arrived at his office.

Explosives experts said the car was rigged with 11lb of explosives and 11 land mines set to go off by remote control, but the land mines had failed to go off after the initial blast. No one was hurt in the explosion which occurred a mere 50 yards from the gates of the Prime Minister's office. Three men were later arrested.

After the bombing, Mr Wazzan, a Sunni Muslim, said in an interview with the state radio: "I shall continue in my course. I am not challenging anyone but am stating my full faith in our course of service for Lebanon."

On Wednesday, Mr Wazzan had ventured to the Christian-held port of Jounieh where he gave a speech defending the controversial troop withdrawal agreement between Israel and Lebanon. This was the first time since the civil war eight years ago that a Muslim leader had made a speech in a Christian stronghold.

A report compiled by the Lebanese Front, the coalition, of right-wing Christian parties, and published today, claimed

Arab killed after Israeli stabbed

Tel Aviv (Reuters) - Israeli settlers in Hebron in the occupied West Bank yesterday shot and killed a Palestinian after an Israeli youth was stabbed, security sources said.

An unspecified number of assailants had attacked the Israeli youth near the town vegetable market and fled with his rifle. Jewish security guards chased the attackers by car. The body of a local Arab was found not far from the scene of the stabbing.

The Israeli plan which was calculated to reduce Israeli casualties.

He was reported to have communicated to the Israelis the concern of the Lebanese Government that its own forces may not be ready to maintain security in the area to be evacuated. The Lebanese also feared that the Israeli pull-back

Kenya steps up security for tourists

From Our Correspondent Nairobi

Mr Elijah Mwangale, Kenya's Tourism Minister, yesterday announced that a new security network had been set up to protect visitors to the country's national parks and game reserves, after the murder of a British tourist by an armed gang which held up a tourist bus near Nairobi last month.

Mr Mwangale said his ministry's anti-poaching force had been deployed to protect visitors to the Masai Mara game reserve, the most popular tourist destination. Patrols would also be carried out in game reserves, and police had stepped up surveillance to protect visitors from pickpockets and other criminals.

Police say they have arrested a number of men suspected of being involved in the recent gang attacks.

Doubt over Mt Sinai and Moses

Brescia (AP) - An Italian archaeological team is challenging the belief that Moses received the ten commandments on a mountain in Sinai, saying the site of the biblical episode may instead be in the central Negev Desert.

Professor Emmanuel Anati, director of the Brescia-based Camuno Centre for Prehistoric Studies, told a news conference that archaeological findings suggest that Moses went to Mount Har Karakon in the Negev Desert to receive the tablets and that the place was already a sacred site before Moses times.

The 2,400ft, plateau-crowned Mount Har Karakon is about 19 miles east of the Egyptian frontier and is at present an Israeli military zone.

"Sinai was searched to the north and south of the peninsula and even outside it, but there is no clear archaeological documentation to show the presence of ancient religious activity for any of the mountains believed to be Mount Sinai," Dr Anati said. "Har Karakon is different because of its richness of evidence of religious activity, going back before the time of the exodus."

Dr Anati said the path leading to Har Karakon was marked by several stone pillars and remains of a building, consistent with the account according to Exodus 24 Verse 4, which says Moses "built an altar under the hill and 12 pillars according to the 12 tribes."

En route for a Kremlin summit

Samantha Smith, aged 11, leaving Augusta, Maine, yesterday for a two-week trip to the Soviet Union at the invitation of President Andropov. She had sent a letter to Mr Andropov asking why the Soviet Union wanted to conquer the world (AP reports). He replied personally saying that the Soviet Union wanted peace and inviting her and her parents to tour his country.

Samantha was taking gifts for her hosts

UN chief's Gulf hopes

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Despite the hatred expressed in their propaganda, Iran and Iraq are moving closer to ending hostilities, according to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary General.

He told a press conference in Geneva yesterday that UN contacts with both countries were more positive and a "significant move" might not be long delayed. As soon as fighting ceased, the UN would offer assistance to Gulf environmental bodies in countering the effects of the prolonged oil spill.

Senior Perez de Cuellar also said after a meeting earlier this week with Mr Raouf Denktas, the Turkish Cypriot leader, that he would renew his efforts to relax inter-communal negotiations in Cyprus.

● Arms spending plea: Senior de Cuellar called (on Wednesday) for a halt to the worldwide, high military spending which he said would cost close to \$800 billion (£335 billion) this year (Reuters reports).

Storm over Coloured TV reader

From Michael Hornsby Johannesburg

The appearance of the first Coloured announcer on South African television's Afrikaans service provoked an angry reaction from some viewers who believe it should be for whites only.

Mr Vivian Solomons made his debut immediately after the eight o'clock news on Wednesday night as a continuity announcer. Since then the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) has received about 75 telephone calls, of which about 60 were unfavourable.

Mr Eric van der Merwe, a public relations officer for SABC, made the point, however, that this was quite a small number of objectors, given a peak-hour viewing audience of more than three million. "I think they represent far right opinion."

South Africa has two television channels. The oldest, TV 1, which started only in the mid-1970s, has an English and Afrikaans service. Up to 8pm the programmes are all in one language; after 8pm they switch to the other. The order changing each day.

Njonjo is suspended by Kanu

From Charles Harrison Nairobi

The governing council of the Kenya African National Union (KANU), Kenya's sole political party, yesterday suspended the membership of Mr Charles Njonjo, the former Minister for Constitutional Affairs, who was recently suspended from his post after a political controversy.

President Moi chaired yesterday's meeting. He has already ordered a judicial inquiry, headed by Mr Justice Miller, a Guyanese judge of the Kenya High Court, to investigate allegations that Mr Njonjo was being groomed by an unnamed foreign power to become President of Kenya.

After repeatedly denying that he had ever been disloyal to President Moi or had aspired to become president, Mr Njonjo resigned his parliamentary seat last week. Chief Richard Littuya, a former MP who was said last week to have sent a telegram to Mr Njonjo supporting him against his detractors.

A statement after the meeting said the governing council had emphasized the importance of discipline within the party.

Soweto black died with bullet in forehead

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

The young black who died in a police station in Soweto, the black township southwest of Johannesburg, on Tuesday was shot at point blank range in the forehead, according to informed sources.

A post mortem examination on Paris Malatji, aged 24, was carried out yesterday morning at a government mortuary in Soweto but the results have not yet been officially released.

The police have admitted that Mr Malatji "died from a bullet wound" while being held for questioning, but have refused to give any other information about the incident, or to say what offence if any he was suspected of.

Mr Abraham Malatji and his wife, Margaret, were at work when their son was arrested at a friend's home on Monday. He later visited Moroka, Jabulani and Protea police stations but was unable to find his son. It was at Protea that the shooting occurred.

Mrs Pearl Legodi, a family friend, was at the Malatji home on Tuesday when three policemen, one black and two white, called and said their son had died in an "accident". The friend informed the parents when they returned to the General Johann Coetzee, Commissioner of Police, has already taken the unusual step of publicly announcing a departmental investigation into the fatal shooting.

Nicaraguan rebels say US is poised to arm them

From Martha Honey San José, Costa Rica

The United States is poised to expand the scope of its involvement in the clandestine war against Nicaragua's left-wing Government by supplying military aid to anti-Sandinista guerrillas operating from Costa Rica. A top official of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) said US assistance is expected to begin this month after recent talks in Washington between the ARDE political leader, Señor Alfonso Robello and Reagan Administration officials, including President Reagan's special Central American envoy, Mr Richard Stone, and three generals.

ARDE is led by a directorate composed of Señor Robello, a former Sandinista, Señor Edén Pastora and Señor Brooklyn Rivera, a leader of the Miskito Indians, who live on Nicaragua's Caribbean coast.

According to Señor Rivera, "The (US Government) gave some promises that they would supply some money and war materials within this new

Rios Montt's sister held

Guatemala City (Reuters) - The sister of President Rios Montt of Guatemala, who was abducted by four gunmen last week, is still missing and the kidnappers have made no contact. Señor Rios Montt has been under pressure to restore constitutional rule and Señora Martha Elena Rios de Rivas was the second of his relatives kidnapped since he took office 15 months ago.

She was seized on June 29, the day the President imposed a "state of alarm" on the country. News of the abduction was given only on Wednesday. Last October, leftwing guerrillas abducted the President's nephew who was freed a month later.

month (July)". ARDE has been engaged in small-scale guerrilla warfare in southern Nicaragua since May, but Señor Pastora has complained he lacked sufficient weapons and supplies to expand the struggle.

Two weeks ago, while Señor Robello was in Washington seeking aid, Señor Pastora dramatically called a ceasefire because, he said, the organization was bankrupt. But, 48 hours later, he announced the resumption of fighting and ARDE guerrillas launched their biggest attack so far against the Nicaraguan coastal town of San Juan del Norte, near the border with Costa Rica.

Señor Pastora, Señor Robello and Señor Rivera all said resumed fighting was possible because they had received new pledges of international support.

In an interview, Señor Robello denied new aid was coming from the US or any other government, contending it was from "friendly people in different countries in Latin America, Europe and the US."

ARDE claims to have more than 2,000 guerrillas, an elaborate logistics system and an administrative staff of several hundred.

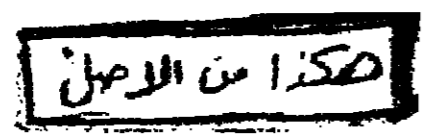
In contrast to Señor Robello, Señor Rivera says the Governments of Portugal, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama, as well as the US, have promised increased assistance.

Asked if US aid was assured, he said: "... it is not yet definite, but I think 75 per cent sure."

ARDE officials say the US Gas demanded, as a condition for aid, that they make an alliance with the Central Intelligence Agency-funded Nicaraguan Democratic Front (FDN), a much larger guerrilla force fighting in northern Nicaragua from bases in Honduras.

Hitherto, Señor Pastora has rejected an alliance because FDN's military leadership is composed of members of the notorious National Guard of the former Nicaraguan dictator, Anastasio Somoza. Señor Pastora and many other ARDE fighters fought against the Somoza dynasty in the war which brought the Sandinistas to power in 1979.

However, Señor Robello said: "The key reason why we aren't



THE ARTS

Cinema

An exceptional talent for characterization

Another Time, Another Place (15) Gate Notting Hill

Sisters: The Balance of Happiness (15) ICA; Phoenix East Finchley

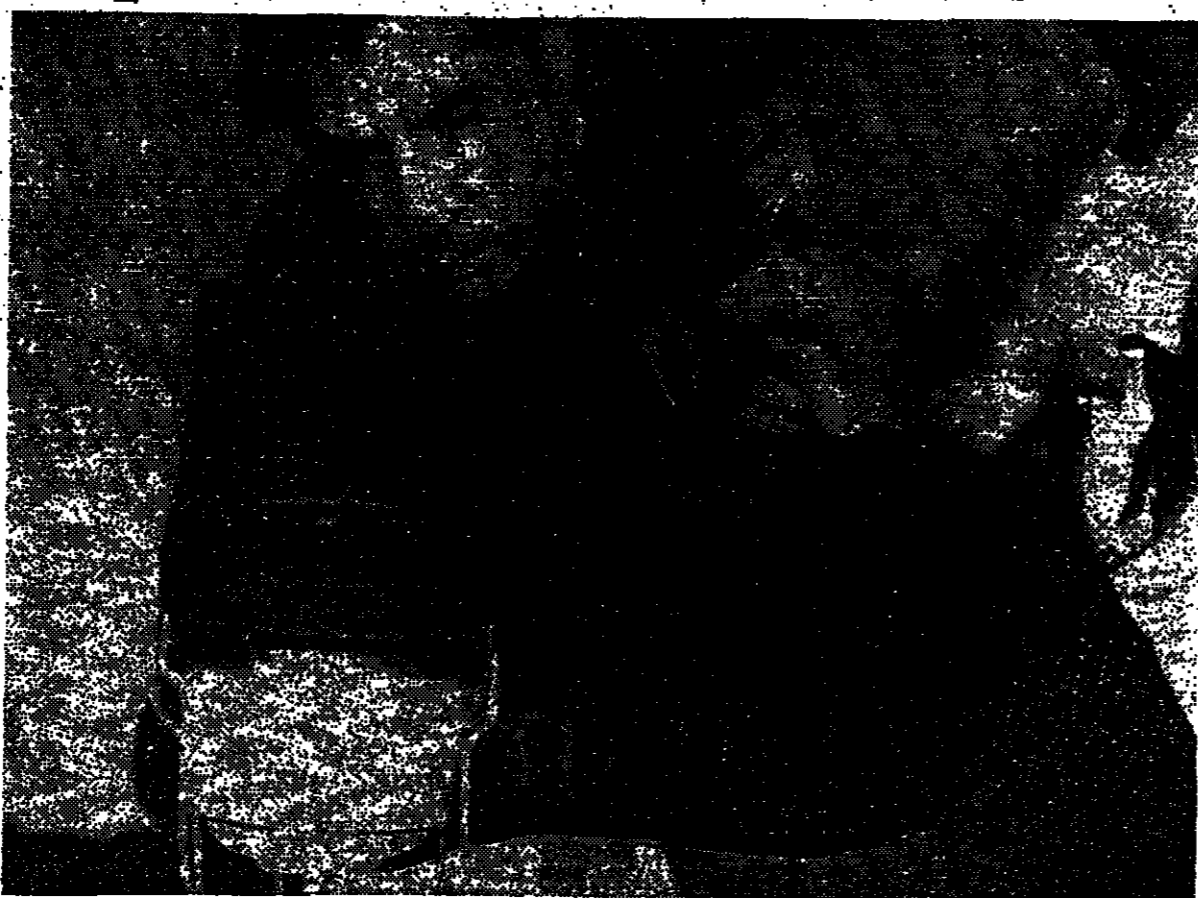
Italianamerican/American Boy Electric Cinema

Etoile du nord (PG) Odeon Kensington

Another Time, Another Place - and another promising new talent in British feature films...

The story of Another Time, Another Place has all the signs of a recollection of actual events...

The villagers are economically but vividly characterized. The sombre two-piece suits in which the women dress up for the parish junket remind us how close they still are to memories of peasant servitude...



Phyllis Logan revealing depths of calm and doubt, with Giovanni Marriello as Luigi

romantic dream, fated to be cruelly destroyed.

Michael Radford has an exceptional talent for visualization. His lighting cameraman Roger Deakins provides magnificent, painterly images of the Scottish skies and landscape.

The first hour of the film is unweaving in building, bit by bit, the interdependence of the two sisters of the title, Maria and Anna.

she sings, to open up a chink on a vanishing rich folk culture. As Janie, Phyllis Logan is one of the screen's most natural beauties since Garbo.

If the Italians, in contrast to these swiftly but finely characterized women, seem stereotyped, it may be that we are seeing them through Janie's eyes, as beings from a foreign world, half the time talking gibberish she cannot understand.

After the comparative disappointment of Heller Wahn (at the Academy as Friends and Husbands), which suffers from the pretensions of someone trying too hard to live up to a sudden international reputation...

The script is economical, the images are spare, exact and elegant, the actresses Jutta Lampe and Gudrun Gabriel are fine. Even some evident devices - the younger sister earns extra money by writing letters for an old blind woman who lives in a crabby independence with her sister - are so well executed as to be wholly acceptable.

David Robinson

Music in New York Resident rewards

After its subscription season ended the New York Philharmonic in past years presented a non-subscription "festival" centred around one composer (last year Stravinsky).

The impetus for this festival came from the creation of a two-year scheme for composers to work with major symphony orchestras.

The emphasis on the question of whether music has returned to romanticism from its serial years was probably owing to the need for a focus as well as for a selling-point, for in the event the composers represented were more a broad spectrum of current composition than members of any definable school.

Yet the work which was used as the initiative, and which was played in the fifth concert, remains one key to whatever defines the new romanticism.

In the five concerts I heard there were several pieces by non-Americans (Maxwell Davies, Takemitsu, Balassa, and of the American contingent both coasts were well represented, though there was nothing in a third movement which flung the paintpot of arrant dominant/tonic sound - set for two pianos and orchestra - into the face of the audience, combining the overblown rhetoric of the opening of the Busoni Piano Concerto with the simplicity of the big tune at the close of Appalachian Spring.

For all its faults, however, this festival was an experiment well worth becoming a fixture, preferably with a music director as committed as the composer-in-residence.

Patrick J. Smith

Concert

The clear-headed musicologist

ECO/Rifkin Barbican

This was a surprise and, happily, a pleasant one. André Previn had to withdraw from this English Chamber Orchestra concert and in his place, the orchestra booked not one of the umpteenth competent underemployed conductors well known to them but a visiting American who was suddenly enabled to make his debut here.

Scott Joplin rags to you, but he is a musicologist with weighty Grove articles to his credit, who both worked for and recorded with Nonesuch over a long period. It was a nice irony that the programme he took over on Wednesday night, included Strauss's Metamorphosen for 23 solo strings, since Rifkin has been causing sensationalist waves in the musicological world recently by arguing that almost all Bach's choral music was performed by one singer to a part, and here he was conducting a Richard Strauss

work on the very same principle. Now it would be unwise to overestimate Rifkin's achievement in drawing a magnificent performance from the ECO, for I dare say they could play the piece well even if conducted by the Barbican's head of planning or publicity. Yet firm direction, the pointing of climaxes and the control of overall dynamics and movement can make a considerable difference, and in all these areas Rifkin was positive, clear and effective. He may not have known the work inside out - who except a string player would? - but he made the most of its swooning phrases and gorgeous dissonances.

In the first half Rifkin directed with similarly atmospheric conviction a piece he can scarcely even have heard of, George Butterworth's The Banks of Green Willow, a watery idyll to which the orchestra brought pleasantly pastel shades. But the joy of the concert, which Rifkin was powerless to affect in any detail, was the collaboration of Norbert Brainin and Peter Schidlof in Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante (and afterwards, as a huge bonus, the whole of one of Mozart's Duos for unaccompanied violin and viola). There may have been times when intonation, or rhythm, or phrasing, or all three slipped, but at its best - in the eerie rising scales of the slow movement and the freely-intervened cadenza of the first - the pair were marvellously penetrating, understanding Mozartians. Rifkin for his part helped with crisp rhythms and firm accents in the orchestra, and the bonus had an especially good night.

Nicholas Kenyon

Opera

Electric charge in the pit

La cenerentola Glyndebourne

First impressions here are hugely encouraging, and they are very, very right. On entering Glyndebourne's little theatre one finds the stage bedecked for a fairy tale, with wobbly models to left and right of a decrepit castle and a pretty chateau, fit homes for Don Magnifico and Prince Ramiro. The eye is prepared for a Cinderella which takes place as if in one of those children's books of three-dimensional cut-outs, all skew perspectives and conflicting sizes in tones of sepia and gold.

And then the orchestra starts up. What can I say? It must be obvious to anyone that a Rossini overture is calculated to set the audience in exactly the right tingling mood to enjoy the better and more dramatic part of the overture - one of the high spots of the evening, with perfectly articulated presto detail, silvery elegance of sound and quite the longest controlled crescendo I have ever heard in any context. It is unfortunate only that, on Wednesday as any night, the singers were not able to match the orchestra's elasticity when the effect was repeated at the end of the first act. But never mind. No doubt they will: they are a spirited bunch.

The title role is taken by Kathleen Kuhlmann, who made a striking British debut last autumn in Semiele at Covent Garden. Here she is a winning



Laurence Dale as Ramiro: a personable youth singing with engaging freshness

the contrast works nicely, and both are so evidently enjoying themselves that it is hard to resist enjoying them. The same goes for Claudio Desderi's Don Magnifico, who has a marvellous scene at the start of the second act, playing the vivacious Italian comic to six Englishly languid boys.

His command of patter is rivalled only by Alberto Rinaldi as Dandini, another whose comic acting is fully the equal of his vocal ingenuity and stamina. Laurence Dale as Ramiro is a personable youth, smiling on intrigue but having his heart always in the right place and singing with an engaging freshness. Alberto, his tutor and the opera's equivalent of the Fairy Godmother, is saved from becoming a bore partly because Roderick Kennedy towers so outrageously above everyone else on the stage, partly because he sings so splendidly and partly because he has the insolent authority of one of Rembrandt's youthful self-portraits.

The costumes more generally are an excellent success. Allen Charles Klein dresses Ramiro and his courtiers as young cavaliers, with flouncing wigs to match, and there are different varieties of splendour for the bourgeois but magnificent and for Cinderella's bridal gown. Placed within the cardboard-looking sets, the clothes delight; so too does the storm scene done within a miniature theatre, complete with mechanical cloud, sun, lightning bolts and coaches and with rain cast in hand-painted paper.

It is typical of Glyndebourne to lavish such attention on a toy, and typical of John Cox as producer to stimulate and be stimulated by his designer. This is the team that gave Scottish Opera its gorgeous Egisto and the result this time is similarly charming and quite unaffected. So long as Mr Renzetti remains in the pit, it will be also electric.

Paul Griffiths

Television Stony silence

those stones were raised before druids were thought of though, in last night's programme Stonehenge - Temple of the Longest Day on Channel 4, it was posited that echoes of older faiths could have reached druidism. Lots of things, however, were posited in this programme, which included a whole posse of professors.

We were whipped around sites with bewildering speed always to return to Stonehenge and a new lot of theories. The

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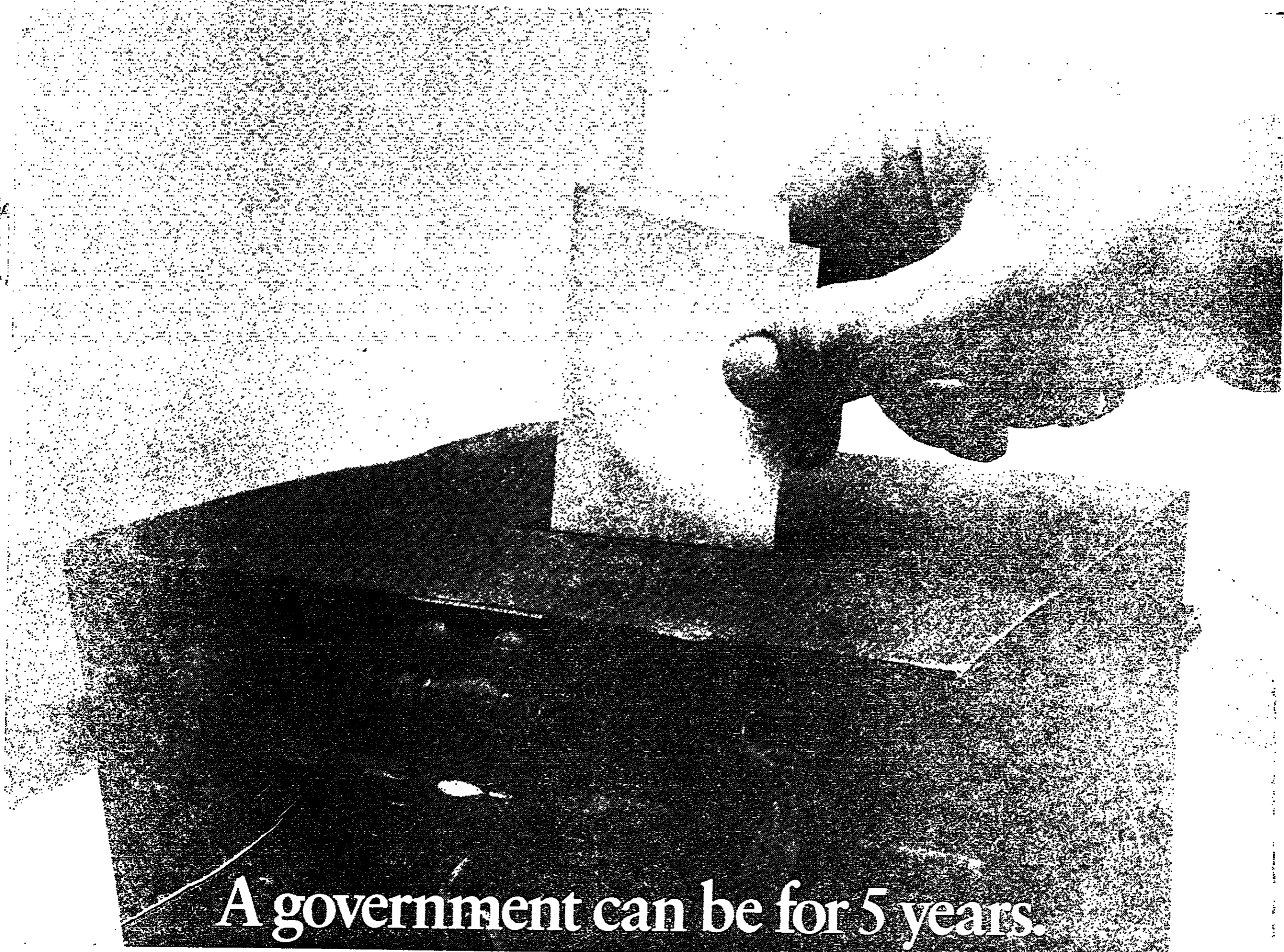
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When Arthur and Cynthia Koestler committed suicide they left 'an experimental autobiography by two hands'. The book gives their often contrasting views of Koestler's personal and political life. Here Cynthia recalls their part in the campaign during the 1950s to abolish capital punishment

Cutting down the noose

In that summer of 1955 the Italian boat Saturnia set sail from New York for the Mediterranean. My mother, dressed in shades of hyacinth and lavender, was waiting to meet me at Cannes. I had never been to the Mediterranean before and was disappointed by the beach at Cannes with its rows and rows of sunburnt, well-oiled bodies. Yet I went there every day for fear of losing my tan.

On Bastille night, kept awake by distant cries of late-night revellers and the spluttering of fireworks, I thought of the first chapter in *The Age of Longing* and wondered how Arthur would have spent the *Quatorze Juillet* if he had been in Cannes - certainly not alone in a stuffy hotel room. On that same *Quatorze Juillet* he sent me a postcard: "Welcome to Europe! Am still in London - working on two books at once; won't be able to get away until later in August. Enjoy yourself and let me know when you arrive. Love - ex-boss."

How could he be working on two books at once? On the day he sent me the post-card he rang Victor Gollancz and noted in his diary: "Cap. punishment crusade started".

As John Grigg was to write 25 years later in *Astride the Two Cultures*: "It seemed to Arthur that the time was ripe for a full-scale assault on the institution of capital punishment in Britain. In the summer of 1955 he approached Victor Gollancz with the suggestion that they should together organize a national campaign. Gollancz had never been an intimate friend but he had published Arthur's first book in English, *Spanish Testament*, and they had worked together as Zionists. Arthur admired Gollancz's enthusiasm and his prowess as an impresario of good causes. Their joint efforts for abolition were to prove fruitful but stormy."

On July 25 Arthur noted in his diary: "Work on *Reflections* only; Kepler shelved. Cynthia arrives."

In a Spanish restaurant facing the back of Harrods he told me about the capital punishment campaign and *Reflections on Hanging*. I remembered a grey morning early in 1953 when Bentley was hanged at nine o'clock and I remembered the grey despair in Arthur's face.

He wanted to know now what I thought about the abolition of capital punishment. Of course I was in favour of it, I told him, but shouldn't some calculating, cold-blooded murderers be hanged? Such cases were extremely rare, he explained patiently. As for murderers like Christie and Heath, they were mentally sick. Hanging was an archaic institution and should be abolished. I needed little convincing.

He was "burning to write" his book, he said, but he could only dictate it to me. He thought he could finish it by the time I was due to return to New York in early September.

That first evening with him during my visit to London was full of surprises and indeed I could hardly have expected it to be otherwise. I was caught up again in a hurricane.

WHILE Arthur dictated *Reflections on Hanging* I sat in his study, curled up in the armchair beside the fireplace.

Every available bit of space was covered with books, lying open or piled up, bristling with bookmarks in the form of brightly covered tapers for lighting the fire, which he bought at Woolworths. He was constantly referring to them - quite a juggling act with so many books - while he dictated Chapter I, "The Heritage of the Past".

We were living in a world of galleys and gibbets, which were common objects in the early nineteenth-century countryside, "creaking and groaning with the bodies of criminals". He had warned me that parts of the book would be stomach-turning. Sometimes he turned pale when dealing with the physiological facts about hanging and looked to see whether I could bear it. Surely he's used to it, I thought. At lunch and dinner I tried not to think of rotting corpses.

Though people in England were shocked by the hanging of Ruth Ellis - the last woman in England to be hanged - who shot her lover in a fit of jealousy, most of the national press stood firmly on the side of capital punishment. *The Observer*, the *Manchester Guardian* and the *Yorkshire Post* were among the few exceptions. I trembled as I read the comments in *The Times* - how could the climate of opinion possibly be changed? But I relished Arthur's attacks on the bastions of the Establishment and in particular on the hanging judges. His *bête noir* was the Lord Chief Justice himself. He wrote: "I have no personal animosity against Lord Chief Justice Rayner Goddard; but as the highest judge in the realm, he is the symbol of authority, and his opinions, which I shall have frequent occasion to quote, carry immense weight in the debate about hanging".

He intended to write the book in a "cool and detached manner," but it was not turning out that way. Surely he should be more dispassionate, I sometimes thought. All that highly charged, restrained emotion was like a fist in my solar plexus. He got some of it out of his system in the first draft and toned it down, but as he wrote in the preface: "In 1937, during the Civil War in Spain, I spent three months under sentence of death as a suspected spy, witnessing the executions of my fellow-prisoners and awaiting my own. These three months left me with a vested interest in capital punishment... I shall never achieve real peace of mind until hanging is abolished."

"Work, work, work", he wrote in his diary. The book was beginning to grow into an obsession.

When he finished the chapter on "Free Will and Determinism or The Philosophy of Hanging" - he called it the most difficult one - he was more than halfway through the book. He was like somebody possessed and the subject was never far from his mind. If we went to a pub for a drink, he would start up a discussion with the publican - perhaps one of his ways of feeling the pulse of the nation. All publicans were pro-hanging, which, of course, was just what Arthur was hoping for, and he would present a diabolically reasoned and objective case for abolition. Although he never gave up hope. Even at the end of a working day, the obsession would continue to pursue him.

In his diary he wrote: "Mania at peak". He could not stop talking or reading about capital punishment when he was not writing about it. At night he continued to dictate the book to me in his sleep. I tried hard to memorize his words as they poured out - punctuated every now and then by "full stop", "semi-colon", or "new para". When I repeated my recollections to him in the morning, they turned out to be gibberish, but in the middle of the night they had seemed vital.

Arthur called this shared obsession a *folie à deux*. It was the beginning of my becoming, in his words, a "junior partner", though I did not realize it then.

A heat-wave was on. From the study window, which overlooks the tops of pine trees, there was a small rectangle of sky far too blue to be English. It was hot under the roof and the walls with their pine panelling raised the temperature even more.

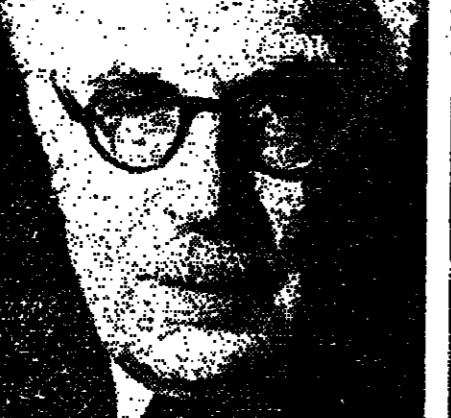
During the heat-wave, he began Part Three of the book: "The End of the Nightmare". This part was unsparring in its glimpses of the struggles of prisoners on their way to the gallows, some "carried tied to a chair" or dragged with "arms pinioned to the back, like animals". I could not help thinking of a passage in his autobiography, which he had also dictated to me and which was about one of his earliest and most traumatic memories. At the age of five he had had his tonsils removed, without anaesthetics, in a doctor's surgery in Budapest. This image of the young Koestler, his arms and legs secured to a chair by leather straps, rendered helpless, choking and coughing up blood - this image was my silent companion during the writing of *Reflections on Hanging*.

The sprint to finish the first draft of *Reflections on Hanging* continued until August 30. The date for my return to New York was fixed for early September, but as Arthur was still hard at work on the final draft, I postponed it by 10 days.

Two days before leaving, I went with Arthur to the Old Bailey where a murder trial was being held. The defendant, Donald Brown, aged 19, had killed an elderly tobacconist in his little shop and robbed the till. The court was nearly empty since the case had nothing sensational about it. Nevertheless it did seem strange that the trial was conducted to the sound of snoring - macabre, Arthur called it.

In the cable, Arthur mentioned "new developments" and asked me to come back to London and work for him for six months.

On November 10 in a crowded London hall the first meeting of the National Campaign for the Abolition of Capital Punishment was held. V.G. pays tribute to me as initiator, felt very proud", he wrote in the diary.



VICTOR GOLLANCZ
An enthusiastic impresario of good causes, eventually he lost interest



Cynthia and Arthur Koestler: he called their shared obsession "*folie à deux*"

The elderly official who was responsible for it sat near the judge and had once been shaken gently by the shoulder, but soon succumbed again and this time was left in peace.

When the jury returned a verdict of guilty, the official whose snoring had been so persistent suddenly came to life and now played his appointed role in the act. He handed the black cap to the judge, who set it on his wig and passed the death sentence. The defendant was told that he would be hanged by the neck until dead and his body removed for burial in the prison grounds. The youth, standing in the dock with his jailers seated behind him, looked down at the floor, dazed and a little defiant. "Terrible", wrote Arthur in his diary. Later he told me with relief that Donald Brown had been reprieved.

Arthur finished *Reflections on Hanging* on October 3 and sent the typescript to Gollancz. At last he returned to the fifteenth century: "Back to Copernic", he wrote with belief, but he had no sooner started it than he was interrupted. Gerald Gardiner, QC, had read *Reflections on Hanging* for Arthur's publisher, Gollancz, and considered quite a few passages libellous.

Gerald Gardiner, who later became Lord Chancellor, was one of the leading lights of the capital punishment campaign. His own book on the subject was also being published by Gollancz. "In their different ways", to quote an overwhelming statement of the case for abolition. Though Gardiner was passionately against capital punishment, his style was cool and detached, and no doubt *Reflections on Hanging* challenged the cautious attitude of a legal mind. "Nearly finished last Gardiner-caused correction", Arthur wrote with resignation in his diary. He had spent two weeks on a job he considered a waste of time.

On October 27 he sent the final typescript of *Reflections on Hanging* to Gollancz and on the same day went to the British Museum library to take up the thread at last of his work on Copernicus and Kepler. He was longing to get back to writing, but soon he developed a "stinking cold", and was plagued with one of his psychosomatic ailments - this time "nausea".

"Cold even worse", he noted in his diary, and spent most of the day in bed reading some biographies of Casanova, for he was toying with the idea of writing an essay on Casanova and Don Juan. Still in bed with a temperature on November 5, he listened to *Fidelio* on the radio from Vienna, and later got up to see some friends.

"Then blank - then cable to Cynthia... in the cable, Arthur mentioned 'new developments' and asked me to come back to London and work for him for six months."

On November 10 in a crowded London hall the first meeting of the National Campaign for the Abolition of Capital Punishment was held. V.G. pays tribute to me as initiator, felt very proud", he wrote in the diary.

Towards the end of November,



DAVID ASTOR
An unflinching and courageous ally throughout the abolitionist campaign

Edward Hulton, proprietor of *Picture Post* and Gerald Gardiner came "solemnly for drinks" at Montpelier Square. "H says converted", Arthur noted. The campaign had few allies among the Press, but it was getting into full swing and during that winter I worked part-time at the campaign's headquarters in the publishing house of Gollancz in Henrietta Street, Covent Garden. A cubicle had been partitioned off from the packing department on the ground floor and served as an office for Peggy Duff, the secretary and treasurer, and her handful of voluntary workers. Peggy had campaigned before for Gollancz on the Save the Children Fund. Nervous at first of her blunt manner and daunting ability to cope with the daily crises, I soon became as devoted to Peggy as all her workers were.

Occasionally Victor Gollancz breezed in - a genial patriarch whose features resembled those of a hawk. Despite his whims, which Arthur was fighting against during those turbulent months, I had a paradoxical liking for him. Even at the first meeting of the executive committee during the summer, Gollancz and Arthur had clashed.

Gollancz had apparently hoped that *Reflections on Hanging* would stress the religious aspects of capital punishment, upon which he himself drew heavily in the campaign pamphlet he wrote, *Capital Punishment: The Heart of the Matter*, which Arthur privately dismissed as beating about the bush. The other campaign pamphlet, written by Gerald Gardiner and Arthur, was called *Capital Punishment: The Facts*. V.G.'s religious feelings, together with a desire to hold the centre of the stage, caused endless delays in the publishing of *Reflections on Hanging*. It took two months to write, but seven to publish.

On New Year's Eve, Arthur wrote to David Astor, editor of *The Observer*, which was going to serialize *Reflections on Hanging* in early February: "For a happy start of the New Year three people are scheduled to be hanged on January 3 and 6 respectively. All three are obviously psychiatric cases... I would like to write a few lines (anonymous) for Table Talk or any other appropriate column. This raises the more general issue of a systematic coverage of these semi-anonymous cases who are dispatched in our name without fanfare..."

Thus began Vigil, a pseudonym under which Arthur wrote in *The Observer* and which, he felt, gave him the freedom to fight more effectively for the cause rather than under his own name, which was that of a notorious pro-abolitionist. Also, he wanted Vigil to be a collective pseudonym for a team, but David Astor was against this. Arthur had a "hard fight" (as he wrote in the diary) before David Astor reluctantly agreed "to make Vigil a team".

Clarence William Ward, a labourer of below-average intelligence, was due to be executed on January 26. *The Observer* printed Vigil's first piece, attacking the Appeal Court judge - none other than Lord Chief Justice Goddard. David Astor sent Arthur a copy of the newspaper, hot from the press, on the Saturday night, January 21, with a handwritten note: "My dear



GERALD GARDINER
Koestler's passionate arguments challenged the caution of a legal mind

Vigil I. Here it is. En avant! Yours, David."

"Ward reprieved", wrote Arthur in the diary three days later. "Editorial in *M(anchester) G(uardian)* attributing it to Vigil."

Occasionally I caught glimpses of David Astor when he came to Montpelier Square. During those tempestuous months he was an unflinching ally of Arthur's and stood by him with a courage that was awe-inspiring.

In January the first *Campaign Bulletin*, of which Arthur was the author, appeared - a monthly production circularized to the 65 members of the campaign's committee of honour, the press and other contacts. A feature of the *Bulletin* was the "Newgate Calendar 1956", which gave brief case-histories of defendants in murder trials. The first issue reported the cases of four men who had been reprieved, after a sojourn in the condemned cell. Arthur wrote to David Astor: "... I do not share the general optimism regarding the capital punishment issue. Wait for two or three particularly nasty murders in London - they always come in series as recently in Glasgow - and there will be a great comeback of the retentionists, blaming it all on too many recent reprieves."

A debate in the House of Commons on capital punishment, with a free vote, was imminent. In early February, Gerald Gardiner and Peggy Duff came to Montpelier Square one evening. Over drinks Peggy said that V.G. had "completely lost interest" in the campaign. On February 14 - the eve of the Commons debate - Arthur feared the "shock of tomorrow's defeat". But his pessimism was unfounded.

There was an excellent view from the Visitors' Gallery. On the Front Bench the members of the Cabinet - Churchill among them - reclined. Sydney Silverman gave one of the main speeches in favour of abolition. As he returned to his seat, walking past the Front Bench, Churchill glanced at him briefly with faint contempt.



"Unforgettable... Incredible surprise vote", Arthur wrote in the diary. Afterwards a group of abolitionists gathered at the entrance of the Commons in a buoyant mood. A woman in a well-worn winter coat - the organizer of one of the campaign's provincial offices - rushed up to Victor Gollancz to ask if they should cancel their forthcoming meeting. To Arthur's horror, Gollancz said yes. [The reason for his "horror" was, of course, that the House of Lords might throw out the Bill - as indeed happened. It was not until 1965 that the death penalty was suspended and it was 1970 before it was finally abolished.] "Anti-climax", he wrote in the diary. "Row with V.G. in front of Commons not to pack up." Perhaps others who witnessed the scene also longed, like me, to sink beneath the floor. The general mood of rejoicing dissolved into uneasy confusion. Gollancz reluctantly agreed to a meeting of the executive committee.

Further extracts will appear in *The Times* in the autumn. Stranger on the Square by Cynthia and Arthur Koestler is to be published by Hutchinson on October 24, price £2.95.

moreover... Miles Kington

They're all different in Clones

About once a month I like to broaden my mind by browsing through the Irish section at my local West London newsagent. To cater for the expatriate and perhaps homesick, there is a whole rack of provincial Irish newspapers containing wonderful local gossip and stories that never make the British press, though this time it was a quiz in *The Munster Express* that caught my eye.

1. "By Killarney's Lakes and Fells". What is a Fell?

2. Who founded the Irish Christian Brothers?

3. Who is the President of the USA? (Answers at foot of column.)

While wrestling with the mind behind this curious but poetic collection of questions, I fell to wondering if the inhabitants of Munster or indeed the people who work on *The Munster Express* (which - and I did not know this - has a greater circulation, net sales, than the TOTAL of ALL Waterford and Kilkenny newspapers) minded very much that there is a popular TV series called *The Munsters*, based loosely on Charles Addams's weird family. Still musing, I spotted a supplement entitled *Kill Festival*, and next to it a long report on the doings of the Clones Council.

I had no idea till I got out my atlas at home (this is what I call horizon-broadening) that there were places called Tempo and Drum. How the inhabitants of Clones must have groaned when the word "clone" became fashionable, and how they must hate it when people blurted the murder in their ear. "Send in the clones" murther in their ear.

But this sort of confusion is not limited to Ireland, and inhabitants of small Irish towns are not the only ones who are gnashing their teeth in suppressed fury. How do the makers of MX, which I am sure is a wonderful tyre, feel now that Ronald Reagan has decided to throw his weight behind a bomb of the same name? Every time that they advertise the marvels of their road-gripping product, they must know in their heart of hearts that a newspaper headline is about to scream "Massive European denials say No to MX!", and that a small confused section of the public believes that car tyres can now wipe out Moscow.

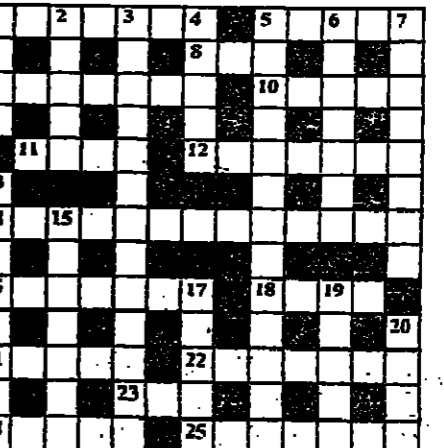
I also have some sympathy for the makers of Aids, the slimming product, who suddenly have to fight against the awareness that AIDS is a particularly nasty disease produced in America and now being exported. If AIDS were a rival firm you could simply sue them for copying the sound your name, but how do you sue a disease? What can British Telecom do about the medical profession, who have recently decided to do away with the phrase VD and replace it with STD, for Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

The answer, I suppose, is pretend that nothing has happened. I am told that airlines never advertise their safety record, on the grounds that even to mention it might suggest the possibility of a crash. Similarly, a slimming device can never say: "We are not a nasty disease". The makers of the very tasty French aperitif Lillet would never deign to worry about the fact that, if you put a hyphen in their name, it becomes the name of an English female sanitary device. People with unfortunate surnames, from Raper to Smellie simply forge their way through life pretending that nothing has happened.

It's not so easy if you happen to have a trade name that is harmless at home but unfortunate in the export market, and I don't just mean Sean Connery, whose surname has undesirable overtones in France. Adrian Room, in his estimable *Dictionary of Trade Name Origins*, mentions several firms who have come a cropper overseas. Rolls-Royce found that Silver Mist was an unsuitable name for Germany, though not as unsuitable as Cons and Foden turned out to be in Portugal, where their products are marketed respectively as Acolon and Foden.

Meanwhile, if anyone has any evidence that the word Moreover is the trade name of a Brazilian rat poison or a slang term in Australia for something distasteful, a well-known brand of lavatory cleaner in the Philippines or particularly unmentionable word in Catalan, I would be grateful if he or she would not get in touch. (Answers to quiz 1, Hill 2, Rice 3, Reagan.)

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 99)



- ACROSS
- 1 Imagine (7)
 - 5 Bury (5)
 - 8 Swindle (3)
 - 9 Accomplish (7)
 - 10 Loose garment (5)
 - 11 Flight (4)
 - 12 Engine (7)
 - 14 Dance creator (13)
 - 16 Washing container (7)
 - 18 Ecstatic (4)
 - 21 Digi (5)
 - 22 Console (7)
 - 23 Zodiacal sign (3)
 - 24 Smelly (5,2)
 - 25 Exercise (5,2)
- DOWN
- 1 Luxurious (4)
 - 2 Bell sound (5)
 - 3 Memorably (13)
 - 4 Brilliance (5)
 - 5 Connecting weddings (13)
 - 6 Brownish (7)
 - 7 Missiles (8)
 - 13 Cold liquid (3,5)
 - 15 Unclear (7)
 - 17 Jazz (5)
 - 19 Prods (5)
 - 20 Discontinue (4)
- SOLUTION TO No 98
- ACROSS: 1 Safari 5 Budget 8 Spa 9 Uproot 10 Snatch 11 Mesh 12 Masthead 13 Shares 15 Cavity 17 Luddites 20 Mate 22 Abasis 23 Origin 24 Bum 25 Typify 26 Siena
- DOWN: 2 Asple 3 Another 4 Inhuman 5 Basis 6 Death 7 Enchant 14 Hauboy 15 Customs 16 Vampire 18 Dhobi 19 Tabby 21 Twist
- (Solution to No 99 on Monday) Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

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FRIDAY PAGE

A caring, sharing crisis

This year is the centenary of the Co-operative Women's Guild, which gave a voice to working women. Now its members are mainly elderly and the movement may not survive, as Jane Wheatley discovered



Sue King and Ethel Mewis: smiling at each other across the years

On Wednesday about 3,000 guildswomen will gather for a picnic in the leafy campus of the Co-operative College in Loughborough. A casual observer could be forgiven for thinking it is some sort of grandmothers' get-together. Certainly the accent is likely to be on recalling past triumphs rather than on anticipating fresh challenges. For a movement that was once a major force for radical social change, the guild is sadly aging. For those who care about its future, the centenary provides not a cause for celebration, but a focus on the harsh reality of a steadily declining membership which means that when the current crop of septuagenarians die, the movement dies with them.

Born out of the Co-operative movement, (motto: Caring and Sharing), the women's guilds spread rapidly. They offered working class women a badly needed separatist forum and a voice. Guildswomen shopped loyally at the Co-op but were encouraged to wield their basket power to keep shopkeepers and management up to scratch. This early narrow preoccupation with home management and co-operative shopping quickly expanded and guildswomen were soon working alongside their sisters in the Women's Trade Union League fighting for equal pay and better working conditions for women.

Sue King is, in her thirties, one of the precious new breed. There are very few members between her age and those in their seventies - a frightening lack of mature guildswomen to replace a national executive whose average age is 70. A deliberate recruitment drive in the early 1970s led to the formation of Young Wives' groups alongside established guilds where, it was hoped, youngsters would create their own forum from which they could gradually contribute to guild busi-

ness. Sue has proved excellent officer material, moving swiftly up the hierarchical structure of the guild and turning a polite check to remarks about her age and tenacity. She doesn't underestimate the scale of the task before her and her youthful contemporaries. "I looked round at the lined faces at Congress this year and I knew that unless we work very hard there will be no guild in 20 years' time. But there are a few, like me, who are convinced that it will survive. We had a young women's conference and we plan a mock congress later in the year - to get in training! We need to be controversial. To put up resolutions like the one from our group this year calling for equal treatment and acceptance of homosexuals in every sphere of life. We don't want to form a splinter group. We are proud of being guildswomen, proud of our heritage. But we need to force the issue, to make our voices heard at the top if we are to ensure the guild's survival."

Each year congress adopts a theme which delegates take back to their guilds for discussion and implementation. This year's theme, Women and the Health Service, is one close to Sue's heart. "We want more well-women clinics, we want to halt this wasteful spending on proprietary drugs and persuade GPs to prescribe more generic drugs which are so much cheaper. We want - above all - to encourage our members and other women to question and improve the service but we don't act like them. Women, more than men, put doctors on a sort of pedestal. We need to take more responsibility for our bodies and to question and criticize. Only by individual women altering the way they respond to their doctors will we get the changes we want."

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Renal policy attacked

A crushing indictment of the policy of many hospitals not to treat kidney patients over 55 comes in a fierce report from the renal unit at Guy's Hospital, London, published in a recent issue of the British Medical Journal. Doctors there have been looking at the survival rates of older patients who have either had a transplant or access to some form of dialysis (kidney machine). They looked at 64 patients, all over 55, who were taken on at the unit from 1975 to 1981. Five-year survival of these patients was more than 60 per cent - well above other European and American figures - and shows that these patients can benefit from active treatment.

Double trouble

Reports last week that the contraceptive pill may increase the chances of having identical twins if a woman becomes pregnant soon after stopping taking it, took some experts by surprise. The announcement was made by Australian Pat Stewart, who with Dr David Macourt at the University of New South Wales has studied more than 2,000 sets of twins from Britain, Australia, Canada and the US. They found that most twins born to women who took the pill within six months of getting pregnant were identical. This is a cause for concern, they say, because identical twins run a three to four times greater risk of congenital abnormalities than non-identical twins.

Asthma worries

The standard of care received by asthma sufferers from family doctors is causing concern. Recent studies have clearly shown that too few patients seek and get help from their GPs when they develop a potentially dangerous asthma attack. It has also been shown that a - usually unfounded - reluctance among GPs to label children asthmatic means that the disease is vastly underdiagnosed. Last week Dr Ian Gregg and colleagues at the department of primary medical care at the University of Southampton, added another fear to the list. Even when the GP recognizes the child's disease, they say, this doesn't mean they get the correct therapy. When 51 children who had been treated for asthma at a health centre were examined by the group signs of inadequate treatment were clear. Over three quarters said they still got asthma on running or playing games, a third lost sleep because they coughed and half still had to take time off school.

First AIDS journal

Such is the volume of research debate about AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) in the US that AIDS Research, a medical journal devoted entirely to the new disease, is to be launched there next month. According to Nature 20 per cent of all profits from the journal - which hardly seems likely to be unpopular - are to go to the recently set up AIDS Medical Foundation in New York. Well over 1000 cases of AIDS, which leaves the victim liable to fatal infections and cancers, have been reported in America, mainly among homosexuals and drug addicts. The official UK total is 14.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser Olivia Timbs is editor of Medicoconomics and Lorraine Fraser is science editor of General Practitioner.

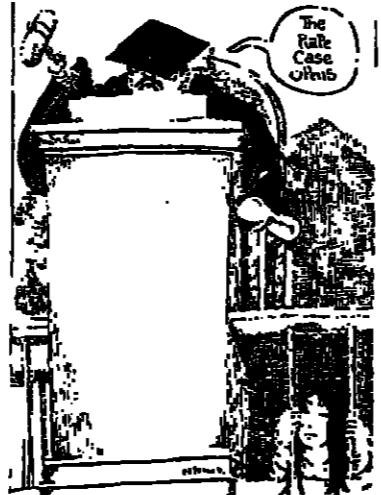
FIRST PERSON

I worked for a number of years for the national airline, Iran Air. In Tehran, until I could no longer stand it and recently sought refuge in Britain. The atmosphere of distrust created in government offices in Iran and the discrimination shown in favour of untrained zealots installed as spies are more unsettling than petty inspections of dress and appearance, but, coming in addition to the greater injustices, the pettiness can help to stretch one's nerves to beyond breaking point. In the entrance halls of many office buildings are installed the "Islamic Sisters". The work of these women is to pull on the eye-lashes of female employees to make sure they are genuine, and to rub a wetted paper tissue against their faces to make sure no make-up has been

Where men are macho and women suffer

There's a saying in Mexico, "laws are like women: they're there to be violated". In Spanish, "to violate" and "to rape" are synonymous. The casual attitude towards rape of a great percentage of Mexican men makes it quite plain that women's liberation in Mexico is in the stone age. The widespread view here of rape as a minor felony, as a forgivable act of mischief, is just the tip of the iceberg. Beatriz Suarez says. She is a closet, clandestine feminist who prefers to keep her views to herself in the severe government office where she works. Not only are Mexican women grossly underpaid and usually overworked in comparison to men, they are also condemned to lives of almost constant childbearing, contraceptives being anathema to the "macho" Mexican man for whom the most tangible, status-conferring sign of his virility is a pregnant wife. Abortion is illegal, but nonetheless prevalent at a time of economic crisis in habitually impoverished Mexico. The degree to which women were being sexually molested in the Mexico City underground reached such a point a few years ago that the authorities decided to segregate train carriages during the rush hour. Never, however, did it occur to them to punish the offenders, as one feminist writer observed. Between six and ten in the morning and five and nine at night, special barriers are put up on the way to, and along, station platforms, ensuring the sexes are kept apart inside the packed trains.

John Carlin looks at the Mexican attitude to rape



The statistics for rape demonstrate not only the degree to which a woman is treated as an object in Mexico, but also the legal impunity with which such an attitude is indulged. There are 80,000 reported cases of rape a year in Mexico against 21,000 in the United States, a country with three times the population, a figure considered by legal and feminist organizations to be 10 per cent of the actual number of rapes. Only 1 per cent of the reported cases result in jail sentences. This, is because Mexican law allows convicted rapists to go free on payment of bail, ranging from 1,500 pesos (£6.50) to 8,000 pesos (£34.50), and that both police officers and judges tend not to consider rape a crime worth serious investigation. Carmen Lugo, a lawyer who works exclusively in defence of rape victims says: "The explanation is simple. A woman is not money property, while a stolen car, for example, is." A criminologist recently discovered that 8 per cent of rape victims are prepubescent, yet Mexico's laws do not demand longer prison terms in rape cases involving minors. Neither do police officers

necessarily treat child victims with any greater sympathy. In August 1981, Lugo handled the case of nine-year-old Hilda, who since the age of five had been consistently raped by her father, Gustavo Varela. Varela aged 68 at the time, had a record of having raped at least eight other women. By no means one of Mexico's 12 million illiterate adults, Varela was an art consultant at the history museum of one of Mexico City's more historic landmarks, Chapultepec Castle. Hilda became progressively more withdrawn, more physically damaged until finally at the age of nine, a female doctor discovered that she had a whole series of adult genital infections and distortions. The mother had her husband arrested. But Varela knew that the judge he was dealing with had a price and a bribe of 100,000 pesos (then £2,600) duly saw that he was acquitted. Hilda meanwhile, was subjected to a grueling interrogation at the police station. She was woken at 11pm, then lam and 5am by police officers bent on proving her father's innocence and when this had failed, on extracting a confession that she had seduced him - at the age of five. "Hilda is psychologically devastated for life," Carmen Lugo says. "Her hips are chronically deformed and her mother Maria has pledged to kill her husband if she ever sees him again." At the moment two women senators of Mexico's ruling party are trying to present a Bill in Congress reforming the laws on rape, making it impossible for a rapist to be freed on bail. Carmen Lugo, a veteran fighter for women's rights in Mexico, sees little hope of it being approved. "While you have a society where it's common for a man who's committed a rape to be slapped on the back and bought a beer by his friends, then the chances of a crime against women's sexuality being taken with any seriousness are pretty remote."

The sisters of terror

Some times they inspect women's lunch boxes for lipstick. Even tubes of vaseline for chapped lips are seized. Outside offices, women have to be even more careful. Former prostitutes "who have professed conversion to Islam" have been allocated distinctively painted, numberless cars and armed guards to patrol the streets in search of females whose dress may fall short of modesty regulations. If your huge, dark scarf that covers the whole of your head and neck happens to have slipped upwards on your forehead and revealed a little of your hair, the "Zainab Patrol Sisters" swoop on you and, with much vulgarity and intimidation, lecture you on how to become a model Muslim woman. The slightest sign of resistance will land you in prison with an uncertain future. Another, mixed patrol is called

the Tharullah, the Avengers of Allah. Its members look for men and women in company and demand birth certificates or marriage documents to prove that no irregular association is taking place. Much can happen if your marriage certificate is left at home. As for women's legal rights, these are negligible. The bearing of witness in a court of law by them is discouraged and a man may go to court to sign papers divorcing his wife unilaterally without previous notice, kicking her out of the house and depriving her of the custody of their children. Only in one case may a woman win a divorce petition. This is to bear witness that her husband is an enemy of "the Imam", ie Khomeini, which is as good as signing his death sentence. Islam, as interpreted by the

regime of Ayatollah Khomeini, proclaims repeatedly that it strives to free women from being sex objects. Yet the regime's actions make it clear that it thinks of us as nothing but sex objects, to be hidden away in the walled Persian house, solely for the use of their male masters when they come home. At the same time the master race, men, are thought to be so pathetically weak and female attractiveness of such potency, that the display of a few strands of facial hair is deemed enough to turn men into street rapists. It is never thought that the segregation of the sexes may, in fact, prove more corrupting or crime-inducing. Now a husband cannot sit beside his wife in a bus. Buses have male and female compartments. Zhaleh Farrin

TALKBACK

Swapping Valium for Selina

From Dr Anthony Freeman, Swindon My friend James Ottaway's defence of Valium (Wednesday Page, June 22) cannot be allowed to pass unchallenged. I note that he has been taking this for 15 years, albeit only half a 5 mg tablet, and that it does exactly what he asks it to do, namely give him another two hours sleep when he wakes up to spend a penny between 5 and 6 in the morning. He writes "doesn't the above show that Valium is not addictive any more than the gin that I drink in the evening is?" Your readers, of course, must not be tempted to take alcohol and Valium together, or for that matter any other hypnotics, sedatives, anxiolytics or similar drugs, but why does James Ottaway bother to take Valium Between 5 and 6? Surely this is a grand time to be up and about these sunny mornings: James Ottaway can make a cup of tea for himself and Annie, go for a brisk walk in the park, watch Breakfast Time with Frank Bough and Selma Scott or Good Morning Britain, or write another letter to The Times, as I am now doing, as I, too, wake up between 5 and 6 for a similar physiological purpose!

Anorexia help

From SC and MM Anorexia and Bulimia Nervosa Association In response to your article (Friday June 10) on bulimia nervosa (incidentally, this eating pattern is a common feature of both anorexia and bulimia), we thought your readers may be interested to know of our organization should they be in need of help, or know of someone who may need some help. We are a self-help group nationwide. As yet we're young, but even in these early stages we plan at least to be able to provide people with some form of support and guidance. The address to contact for information is: ABNA, 12 Oakhill Close, Ashted, Surrey. Please send a stamped addressed envelope.

Case rests

From Katharine St John-Brooks, London Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser (Medical Briefing June 24) draw attention to concern that pregnant women who work may be harming their own and their babies' health. What kind of work? I have a sedentary job and an energetic toddler. My work is not an opportunity I get to sit down!

THE TIMES Tomorrow START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES. The great British seaside, Part II: Alan Hamilton on how Eastbourne and Great Yarmouth are trying to reverse the holiday trend. Sport: John Wilcockson follows the Tour de France. Travel: Journey to the southernmost town in the world and Tierra del Fuego; California; boating on The Thames and how to get a Fare Deal. The Oxford Movement - 150 years on. Family Money: State of the unit trust market and front-runners in The Times/Money Programme Unit Trust Competition. Plus The news from home and abroad. Values on the pick of regional products; Drink goes pink; Paperback of the month; the top gardening column; Critics' Choice of what's on in the cinema and on the stage; and a guide to the coming week's events in the arts.

سكدا من الاصل

THE TIMES DIARY

New grievances

Antonia Caccia's documentary On Our Land, about Arab grievances in Israel, plainly got under the skin of the Israeli government...

Fortress breach

The Government will, after all, be embarrassed by the publication of much of the report of the Commons foreign affairs committee on the Falklands, shelved because it was overtaken by the dissolution of Parliament...

Prorogued

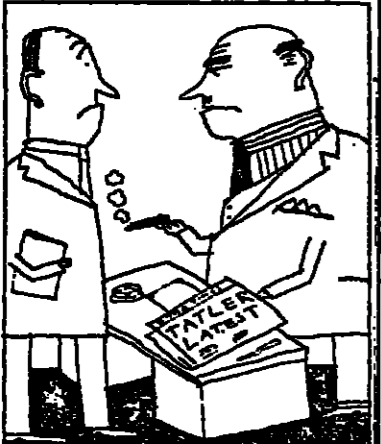
Having seen this Diary reprieved to its present marginal existence (geographically speaking) with help of readers' pleas for mercy, I never like to hear of Diaries closing. Yet even I would not mourn the CID Diary...

John Carlisle, the Conservative MP leading the campaign for an MCC tour of South Africa, says that my PHSsource's revelation that postal voting to date is running sixty to forty in favour does not mean that he has got the opposition stumped...

Still standing

At a time when so many local authorities are closing down their public conveniences, I am relieved that the Department of the Environment has added to its list of buildings of architectural and historic interest the public urinal in Connaught Road, Silverton...

BARRY FANTONI



'Have you ever considered your position here, personally and philosophically?'

Shanks pony?

My invitation to the London opening of Maxim's de Paris arrived today, so it is time to tell you about the menu at Maxim's of Karachi (no relation), forwarded by H. H. Courts of Steeple Langford. Its temptations, in a brochure as lavishly worded as it is illustrated, include "king-size marinated prawn on screws"; a "man-size fillet steak"; a "man-size oyster platter"; a "man-size jambalaya"; served with a mug of hot Bovril; and veal shanks Milanese, served with grandmother's stuffed eggs...

A group of British towns planning were earlier failing. French counter-Force is responsible for redevelopment of the Nord-Pas de Calais coalfield. Their interpreter was keen but not well up on the technicalities. "Do you have a French equivalent of Arthur Scargill?" asked an Englishman. "Arthur Scargill, qu'est ce que c'est que ça?" said a Frenchman. To which the interpreter replied: "Stalls."

Warsaw Embassies thrive on secrets, as bears do on honey. Not of course dramatic 007 international secrets - smuggled atomic blueprints, clandestine treaties with Bulgaria - but whispered village indiscretions that make the difference between a good cocktail party and a bad one. The best of these (the time the Ruthenian attaché lost his trousers, the cricket match that went wrong) grow into towering myths, become part of the oral history of a diplomatic mission. The British Embassy in Warsaw has a very special myth in connection with a tragic love affair, an extremely valuable seash through scrapheaps and the back streets of the antique trade. The story begins in Berlin before the First World War when a young British diplomat, Harold Beresford Hope, fell in love with a Polish woman. She returned his love, but it is safe to assume that there was some tension in the relationship: one day, Beresford Hope visited a palais de danse with another girl, was followed there by his Polish lover, who confronted him and promptly shot herself on the dance floor. The diplomat was transferred (the standard response to scandal) to Athens. He died there in 1917 of typhoid according to one story, having thrown himself out of the window in feverish delirium - and left a will which, in memory of his Polish lover, bequeathed the valuable Beresford Hope silver collection to the British legation in Poland, providing that such a mission was established in an independent Poland within five years of his death. In November 1918, the second Polish Republic was established and the following year a British legation was established. The silver was transported, in accordance with the will, from Coutts' Bank to Warsaw (by cruiser to Gdynia and from there to the capital in a special railway carriage guarded by naval ratings). At this stage the collection comprised 176 pieces, most of it accumulated by William Carr Beresford Hope, the illegitimate son of the Marquess of Waterford, who served heroically in the wars against Napoleon. At the outbreak of the Second World War, the embassy was evacuated and the silver remained in heavy chests in the strongroom. But when the British returned after the war and opened the strongroom - the lock still perfectly intact and the combination unaltered - with the charge of affairs found that a hole had been bored in the back of the safe, and the collection, except for one mustard spoon, had disappeared. The search was then on for the silver - no easy task, for Warsaw had been almost completely destroyed by the Germans. Every street had its mound of rubble, most buildings were simply skeletons. In the spring of 1946, the wife of the British ambassador made the first important discovery: among a heap of old bedsteads in a scapary she found a dish-cover bearing a British royal coat of arms. Thirteen more Beresford Hope dish-covers were unearthed and bought from the dealers for a small sum. Slowly, piecemeal, the collection began. Ice-picks were found at the London Antique Dealers' Fair in 1956. The New York police helped to track down a large venison dish.

The love lorn legate's missing legacy

According to one chronicler of the story - Mary Henderson, wife of a former ambassador to Warsaw - the trail has included silver searches in Sweden, Holland, Italy and Java and has involved arrests, secret meetings with dealers and money paid to friends of friends. Today, most of the collection is still missing - only 26 pieces out of the 176 have been recovered - and the financial stringencies of contemporary Britain have meant that diplomats would not be authorized to buy any more Beresford Hope silver even if pieces were discovered in Warsaw's second-hand "commission" shops. The result is that the embassy has more silver dish covers than dishes to be covered. It does, however, possess one of the most significant pieces in the collection, the silver-gilt Buenos Aires Cup. This was presented to William Beresford by Lloyds after he captured Buenos Aires in 1806. The moment of glory did not last long and Beresford had to escape from the city dressed as a laundry woman. The cup was displayed last month to mark the Queen's birthday; a reminder of a tragic love affair (though not exactly a high point in Anglo-Polish relations) and perhaps, too, of more recent military victories.

David Watt Trench warfare on the eastern front. Germany is, as always, the hinge on which East-West relations turn, and there is no better indication of what is really going on than the atmospherics of a visit by a Federal Republic Chancellor to Moscow. Helmut Kohl's trip this week has displayed a depressing but not at all surprising picture of almost complete immobility. The Chancellor seems to have had two objects in mind in going to Russia. First he wanted, for his own political purposes, to blunt the edge of the accusation that he was putting the East-West dialogue begun by Brandt and Schmidt into cold storage. In this at least he has succeeded. Continuity has been established. His second, and closely related, purpose was to show the Russians that continuity is in an important respect broken. They are not dealing with a Social Democrat Chancellor whose party was split from top to bottom on most of the issues under discussion but with a Christian Democrat Chancellor who has just won a resounding electoral victory. Presumably this lesson has not been lost on the Russians either. What else Herr Kohl can have hoped for from the visit is hard to see. Perhaps he has some faint hope that the Russians would have some concession to offer on the purely Soviet German front, if only to put him on the spot - half inclined to accept, half frightened of the reactions of the American Administration and his own right wing. In fact, of course, there was no sign of movement on any front at all, and the question is "why?" As usual, there are as many different accounts of what is happening in Moscow as there are Kremlinologists, but they can be grouped into two broad categories. The first is simply that Yuri Andropov is too ill to take any serious new initiatives. In this the Andropov succession of last year was within strict limits, a promising turn in East-West relations. The new leader was beholden to the military, to be sure, but he had a separate power base - in the KGB. His public utterances immediately after coming to power confirmed the impression of a tough pragmatist whose priority was to sweep away the corruption and economic muddle of the last Brezhnev years. His allies and mouthpieces, talking to westerners, implied strongly that he would be hard to bargain with on East-West issues but that a bargain of some kind could be made, for the simple reason that Andropov was not an ideologist. But all reports from Moscow suggest that since about February, something on the internal scene has changed. The bustle has died away, the power struggle has silently resumed, the Andropov clients and allies are looking unsure of themselves. In short a Brezhnev-like atmosphere of impermanence and transition has returned. On the assumption that it is a sudden collapse of Andropov's health that has caused this, we may expect the paralysis to continue. On the analogy of past experience, nobody in such situations, including the ailing leader himself, dares to take any risky decisions. Novelty and initiative give way to damage limitations - which can be defined, in many important spheres of action, as "not upsetting the Soviet defence establishment".

Roger Boyes

The Times Portrait: Richard Perle Reagan's sabre rattler in chief



Denis Healey once referred to Richard Perle as "the prince of darkness". Perle is the Darth Vader of the Pentagon whose mission in life seems to be to prevent any softening of the Reagan administration's policy towards the Soviet Union. Perle's influence spreads around Washington like the tentacles of an octopus - squeezing shut any loopholes he sees appearing in negotiating postures with the Soviet Union on arms control, stifling any attempts to come to terms with the country's burgeoning nuclear freeze movement, drowning critics of Reagan's defence modernization programme in a sea of nuclear missile statistics and forever on his guard against moves to weaken support for Israel. In his capacity as Assistant Secretary for International Security Policy, Perle is the Pentagon's leading cold warrior. Although a rare Democrat in an otherwise solidly Republican administration, his authority is greater than either his official position or his age - he is only 40 - would suggest. His constant preaching about the need to avoid arms agreements, such as Salt 1 and 2, which he regards as being detrimental to the US, have a ready audience among the instinctively anti-communist members of the present administration, from Reagan downwards. And his encyclopaedic knowledge of the whole security field, together with his skill at manipulating the Washington political system, enables him to run circles round most of his opponents. Nato allies have come to regard Perle as embodying the worst sabre-rattling aspects of the Reagan administration. They not only fear what they perceive to be his cavalier attitude towards the danger of nuclear war, but have reason to be concerned about the role he has played in a wide range of issues which have caused tension between the US and West Europe, such as last year's dispute over Soviet pipeline sanctions. At present he is one of the principal advocates of toughening up the Export Administration Act, the extra-territorial provisions of which have so angered Mrs Thatcher and other European leaders. European diplomats fear he is also getting ready to torpedo whatever compromise on medium-range missiles in Europe may emerge from the talks which the West German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, has just had in Moscow. Liberals fear Perle, but greatly respect him. Conservatives adore him. Israel recognizes him as one of the most forceful members of the Jewish lobby; he has consistently campaigned in favour of the US fulfilling Israel's defence needs, arguing that Israel is Washington's most reliable ally anywhere. When you meet him, Perle rarely displays his hawk's talons, at least not in any threatening way. He is charming personified. And he is very intelligent. A graduate of the University of Southern California, he went on to study at the London School of Economics, where he finally abandoned previously held liberal views on defence issues and became a firm believer in military strength as a means of maintaining international stability. Perle has a reputation for being opposed to any form of arms control agreement with the Soviet Union, particularly involving strategic weapons. He denies this. However, he maintains that few such agreements have ever worked, and he wants to ensure that the US does not commit itself to another Salt-type accord. The present Salt agreements, he argues, have not only enabled the Soviet Union to go ahead with a huge expansion of its armed forces during the past decade but were directly responsible for the development of the feared SS20 intermediate-range missile. It is the SS20 which has provoked Nato into responding with its proposed deployment of Pershing 2 and ground-launched cruise missiles. "I believe the purpose of arms control agreements is to produce enhanced stability at significantly lower levels of nuclear weapons," he says. "If they don't achieve that they are virtually meaningless and can even be dangerous." To emphasize his point he notes that all the new weapons added to the arsenals of the US and the Soviet Union during the past decade have been acquired within the context of Salt 1. "The Soviets had 1,300 warheads on intercontinental ballistic missiles in 1972. They have about 6,000 now... this makes it difficult for me to understand the nostalgia for arms control." Despite his scepticism about arms control, he believes it may be possible for the Reagan administration to negotiate arms reduction agreements once Moscow realizes that the US is definitely going ahead with its modernization programme and the deployment of medium-range missiles in Europe and that "the alternative to an agreement is going to be worse for them." At the moment Perle is bracing himself to go into battle once more against anything that might be negotiated with Moscow for the sake of political expediency. The first battle will be over the European missiles. He is concerned that some members of the Administration, particularly "doves" in the State Department, may be prepared to settle for an agreement providing for a lower but unequal level of missiles in Europe. It was Perle who fanatically fought to maintain America's original "zero option" proposal - the elimination of all intermediate range land-based missiles. The bigger battle will come next year when Reagan will come under heavy pre-election pressure to hold a summit meeting with Yuri Andropov and reach some form of agreement on limiting strategic weapons. "We will be asked to settle for an agreement that does not accomplish anything merely for the sake of obtaining an agreement," he says. "I hope and trust that this administration, which has set a higher standard for arms control agreements, will stand by that standard even in the face of pressure to lower it." Perle will do his utmost to ensure that this standard - his standard - is maintained.

Philip Howard A flight of fancy to Isfahan. Until last month I never paid much attention to the things. Carpets were what one covered the floor with; what we could not afford wall-to-wall; best in a dull brown colour so as to hide the stains of beagles and children; shabby. The difference between Axminster and Wilton was the difference between Cornflakes and Puffed Wheat; discernible but uninteresting. One sneered at the advertisements in the colour mags illustrating that new carpets in three shades of magenta were part of the good life. Others rated them more highly. Henry James wrote a novel called The Figure in the Carpet: "Verreker's secret, my dear man - the general intention of his book, the string of pearls were strung on, the buried treasure, the figure in the carpet." But James was notoriously sensitive. Edgar Allan Poe wrote: "The soul of the apartment is in the carpet. From it are deduced not only the hues but the forms of all objects incumbent." Edgar Allan was notoriously potty. For the past month it has been impossible to get away from carpets. There was an international carpet conference in London; one stumbled over oriental carpets in exhibitions all over town. The only thing to do was to go and have a look at what the fuss was about. And behold, the half was not told me. I suppose that we rude northern barbarians, who used to cover our floors with rushes to hide the excrement, dirt and dog bones, are expected to be ignorant about carpet matters. But the iridescent colours and intricate patterns from Ushak to Isfahan in the Hayward Gallery charm magic carpets, opening on the foam of perilous seas, and a newly discovered minor decorative art form. I quite see what the painters from Mantegna to Holbein had put in the place of honour behind the Virgin or under the feet of the statesman. But there are a number of questions about the business that still puzzle me. I think we should be told: 1. How is it that these eastern carpets as to western carpets as to Hyperion to a satyr? In particular, why do our carpets, with all the advantages of industrial mass production and modern design, compare unfavourably, in artistic individuality, with the primitive handiwork of the rudest Asiatic mountaineer? Why are eastern carpets more beautiful and sophisticated than the best western tapestries? 2. How long has this been going on? The experts assert that pile carpets from the East were quite probably known in Greece and Rome in classical times; but they do not sound very certain of their citations. Was the soft-piled rug in the palace of Helen and Menelaus in the Odyssey a landscape of blue and green and red from Egypt, where Helen had come? Was the crimson embroidered carpet on which Agamemnon trod on his return from the war something rich and rare imported from Troy? If so, he deserved what was coming to him in the bathroom for not taking his boots off. 3. What is this joke about the tails of animals? The carpets of the Mogul empire in India tend to a naturalistic rendering of plants and animals, often eating each other or indulging in a bit of jolly man-eating. But when the weavers get to the tails, fantasy takes over. A placid cow comes to a tail-end in a scorpion or a cluster of ten tails standing on end like the animals decorated with spots of a variegation not seen since the Garden of Eden. 4. I hope they were fun to make. I remember a terrible story, an old wives' tale, I hope, about a presentation carpet from the Shah of Iran. The knots were so small that they could be tied only by the fingers of small children, who had sat in succeeding generations for 20 years tying them. 5. Do I overstate? No, not I. I could not have the patience to take off my shoes and socks and wash my feet every time I came into the room. But I think one could write beautifully at a desk covered by an Ottoman table-carpet. One could put off for hours the ugly plunge of putting a clean sheet of paper in the typewriter, while one's eyes traced the infinite sinuosity and intricate symmetry of one's carpet.

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Flowers of the Forest - £2 a bunch

As someone who lives permanently in the product, I'm happy to report it's in good nick. Edinburgh Castle esplanade is easing itself into its steel corset of Tattoo scaffolding and the Bonnie Banno are plotting to market little bits of themselves. Up Appin you've never seen such congregations of craft shops and the big-hearted tweed emporiums of Oban are feeling confident enough to sell Falklands wool. The commodity which Hugh MacDiarmid once described as "the little white rose of Scotland, that smells sharp and sweet and breaks the heart" - is now managing to package itself in a much more professional way. At least those are the words and that's the opinion of Alan Devereux, vociferous chairman of the Scottish Tourist Board whose high profile is ever before us, and who now has two new reasons to trumpet "Scotland's for Me!". "Scotland's for Me!" is the slogan for a major advertising promotion which, says Mr Devereux, was largely responsible for last year's record results for Scottish tourism. According to the STB's annual report, just published, 1982 brought a 6 per cent increase in overnight stays and £760m in sales. It is not terribly tricky to break records in Scottish tourism. The industry has been declining for years and Mr Devereux is far from satisfied with this modest upturn. As a former head of the Confederation of British Industry in Scotland he has always tried to run the STB like a commercial enterprise and he enjoys the vocabulary of marketing. Inspired not only by last year's statistics but also by this year's Queen's Speech, he has been scolding receptive acres of Scottish newspaper with exclamations about "selling the product" and observations that "we are still far short of realizing tourism's full potential. Mr Devereux is in the business of packing the glens. He has shown himself to be unsympathetic and occasionally confused in his appreciation of Scotland's wilder places, and will always be remembered for his colourful comments on the character of the Cairngorms. When the STB chairman was lifted by helicopter to their northern corries to see for himself an area controversially proposed for skiing development, he dismissed the notion that anyone should bother to conserve these "mountains of the moon." Yet at times he appears to be promoting the marketability of the wilderness. He has complained irritably that people describe Knoydart, in the West Highlands, as "Scotland's last great wilderness" when we have 30,000 square miles of countryside of which "a vast amount is wilderness." For how much longer? Already the physical apparatus of tourism - what I would call its gashy detritus of caravan parks and chalets and visitor centres and mobile food stalls - has been introduced to "activate" the qualities of some of our most beautiful and lonely places. "With this new ability to go abroad and sell ourselves," he has said, "I would hope that before too long the number of foreign tourists visiting Scotland would double to two million a year." And again: "My own business of tourism has much more potential for job creation than heavy engineering." That's not exactly much of a boast. No one is seriously trying to revive Scotland's heavy engineering industry, but many have been left to cope with the disintegration of an economy which - despite its nature - did not have enough irons in the fire. Tourism inevitably has a part to play in Scotland's whisky-and-mid-rochup future, but is it the part as written by the Scottish Tourist Board? The other day, late into the luminous dusk of the Highland midsummer, I stood on the edge of Loch Linnhe, on the lonely peninsula of Ardsheal. The loch looked like a metaphor for the final crossing: still, silent, limitless but unthreatening, with the shadowy promise of a happy land on the other side - the massed mountains of Morvern and Kingairloch. The air was thickened by the smell of heath and rhododendron, thinned by the piping cry of wakeful oyster catches, stirred by history. Behind me an invisible way lay the death of the Red Fox, the execution of James Stewart of Glen Drur, the decent man who was made the scapegoat of the Appin murder. How does the Scottish Tourist Board package such an aggregate of smells, sounds, images, memories of tragedy and injustice? No doubt it will try.

Julie Davidson From here you get a lovely view of the CARAVAN PARK.

PHS 150



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THE MINISTRY OF HOPE

Only two years ago government provision of work and training for the young unemployed went under the designation "special programmes". They are special no longer.

Doubtless the MSC will be criticized from both left and right during today's House of Commons debate on the sketchy training proposals contained in the Queen's Speech.

The MSC is, willy nilly, a charlady mopping up the spillage of economic change, a social Elastoplast. It must be pushed into taking on an additional positive role.

preparation, the MSC must step in. Its New Technical and Vocational Education Initiative is unpopular among school-teachers only because of the criticism it implies of the too academic nature of the fare offered in the lower forms of the secondary schools.

At best there may soon be a tailing off in the growth of joblessness as the recession abates. Beyond is a murky vista where the already large pools of "structural" unemployment are replenished as British industry painfully adapts.

THERE IS STILL TOO MUCH MONEY ABOUT

Another disturbingly high increase in sterling M3 was recorded in June. The 1 3/4 per cent rise in this broad measure of the money supply is the latest in a series of bad numbers.

The function of money supply targets is to give the Government advance warning of future inflation movements. If the targets are being exceeded it should take action before the situation has slipped out of control.

But it is very difficult to claim that inflation is slipping "out of control" when the most recent figure for the twelve-month increase in the retail price index is 3.7 per cent and unemployment is over three million.

pressure on future inflation. But monetary expansion is far in excess of the recent growth rate of national money income, implying strong upward pressure on future inflation.

The intellectual quandary generates a practical policy problem. Although above-target money growth should in principle be countered by higher interest rates, this response could be quite inappropriate while the unemployment total stands at its present level and is still going up by about 20,000 a month.

Perhaps the safest conclusion is that there is so much slack in the labour market that several months of above-target money growth can be tolerated. The question "how many months can this continue?" inevitably requires the exercise of discretion by the Treasury and the Bank of England.

Although the case for an interest rate increase is not yet compelling, there can be no

doubt about the need for other, less drastic steps to rein back monetary growth. So far this year the Bank of England has not sold new issues of gilt-edged securities with particular aggression, perhaps because it wants savings to be channelled to the corporate sector rather than into government debt.

Such attempts will be more likely to succeed if the Government could demonstrate its determination to reduce public expenditure. Although several announcements of restraint have been made by spending ministries in the last few weeks, they have been rather miscellaneous in character.

The financial markets may not easily be persuaded that the Government's policies are strong enough to keep inflation falling in the long run. If there are one or two more months with sterling M3 increasing by over 1 1/2 per cent, a rise in interest rates would be difficult to avoid and the Government must not stand in the way.

OPPOSITION IN ABEYANCE

Labour's refusal to act like an effective Opposition has taken a new and harmful form. The Labour whips have refused to nominate members to the Commons select committees until the party's leadership contest is settled in the autumn.

Since their birth in 1979, the all-party Commons departmentally-related committees have become increasingly sharp instruments of accountability and, occasionally, effective jeunies of more open government.

through his procedural reform when Leader of the House. How convenient that Labour's continuing civil war should put the committees out of action, albeit temporarily.

Defenders of Labour's sabotage have two arguments to offer. Convention requires front bench spokesmen to keep off select committees. The new Labour Leader will appoint a fresh team, several of whom, it is claimed, would have been select committee men and women had the system been reconstituted.

The first argument is easily disposed of. There exists a swift and efficient mechanism for replacing select committee hands called to the front bench. The second is the kind of narrow

party politics that gives the place a bad name. In a rational world before leaving for their holidays, MPs would have agreed an agenda for the 1983-84 deliberations of their committees. There was research to commission and special advisers to recruit ready for a flying start in the autumn.

The select committees are a ready-made mechanism for effective, evidence-based scrutiny. They provide some of the raw material of opposition. A parliament with an exceptionally large government majority stands in special need of effective opposition. To wait until the autumn before establishing this means of providing it may suit the party managers, but it is a failure on the part of parliament itself.

Musical form

From Miss Fiona Maddocks Sir, I fear your correspondents, Mr Richard Livermore and Mr Alfred Brendel (June 30), may have missed Roger Scruton's tune for the delicacy of his trills. They seem to believe that Mr Scruton is using a rena to a doubtful era of English music-making when Mr Brendel, playing Beethoven might have been banished to make way for the local choral society's repeat performance of "Bless Pair of Sirens" and a sacred English anthem.

disturb the soul, but surely the burden of Mr Scruton's article was rather different. His concern was with a more universal problem that has vexed artists of all epochs and all nations: how to integrate new ideas into the artistic tradition. This is the central question posed by Wagner in The Mastersingers. In the end it is not only the professional guild of Mastersingers but also the amateur citizens of Nuremberg who decide jointly to reject Beckmesser's dead rules in favour of Stolzing's new inspiration. This is the sense in which amateurs make a musical culture. The Nuremberg community is shown to

be open to innovation. But within the structure of a tradition. It is true that the years following the composition of The Mastersingers saw a change in Germany's political mood which led to that opera being used as a weapon of propaganda. But that should not blind us to its original artistic intention; otherwise we should be guilty of the "everything seems political" offence of which Mr Brendel accuses Mr Scruton. Yours faithfully, FIONA MADDOCKS, 32 Montpellier Grove, NWS, June 30.

Constructive view of the police

From the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis Sir, Mr Curran's article, "Why the police need policing" (July 6), refers to "Sir Kenneth Newman's infamous negative political intervention". I am reluctant to prolong an argument on this subject, but Mr Curran's distorted account of my views should be corrected.

The article focuses on one short passage in my report, as follows: "As an apologetic Commissioner I do not, of course, see the need for change in the constitutional arrangements for the control and administration of the police. When the debate is restricted to the objective merits of the proposals for change there can, of course, be no objection. Unfortunately, some proponents of change go further. They seek to boost their case by a campaign of dedicated denigration of the police."

I think I can safely leave it to Times readers to decide whether that passage will bear the interpretation which Mr Curran has placed upon it, especially when it is read in conjunction with another passage in the same section of the report: "The police can only benefit from responsible and constructive criticism and I have every wish to encourage this. But no one gains when criticism is deliberately negative. For this reason, among others, I welcome the introduction of consultative committees which should provide a more positive forum for the promotion of attitudes, perceptions and organisation to enable police and public to reduce crime together."

Yours faithfully, KENNETH NEWMAN, New Scotland Yard, Broadway, SW1, July 6.

From Mr Ian Haig Sir, Your leader's assertion (June 30) that Hackney Council for Racial Equality (HCRE) makes a practice of publicizing cases of alleged police brutality as a means of exploiting local feelings and not providing details to the police is a gross distortion.

People have come to HCRE seeking help about alleged police excesses. Where they have wanted to complain to the police they have been assisted. Where they have not wanted to pursue it but have asked HCRE to record it, this we have done. The police, on the publication of our report on our experience, asked us for details of those cases they could not identify.

We said, No, because people who had come to us still given their description in confidence did so in the knowledge that their personal details were not then to be disclosed to the police. You may find that strange or difficult to understand, but the fact is that many people in Hackney fear to disturb the police because of their previous experience at their hands.

We respect that confidence and are not going to start abusing it now. We stand by our report; our facts are authentic. We will not withdraw what we have said in our report. Yours sincerely, IAN HAIG, Senior Community Relations Officer, Hackney Council for Racial Equality, 247 Mare Street, Hackney, E 8, July 1.

NI contributions

From Mr Stephan Schattmann Sir, The CBI, as your Industrial Correspondent reports today (June 28), have told the Prime Minister that once the National Insurance surcharge has been abolished the next step should be to have employers' NI contributions. This is likely to lead to a reduction of the level of social protection expenditure, unless the shortfall will be made good by the beneficiaries - not the most realistic assumption, I submit.

And this in a country which employs less of its resources for this purpose than any other in the EEC, bar one (Ireland, with 23.4 per cent of its GDP, spent just one decimal point less than the United Kingdom's 23.5 per cent in 1981) and whose central and local treasuries contribute a far higher proportion than elsewhere in the Community, again with the exception of Ireland (I am ignoring Denmark, where income tax provides more than fourfifths of all expenditure).

But most significantly, all our Continental competitors in the EEC, whose economic performance does not tend to be inferior to that of this country, have to carry a higher share of employers' contributions than British industry. In Italy it was 72 per cent, Belgium 28 per cent, Germany 16 per cent, Netherlands 7 per cent and Luxembourg 3 per cent.

The criticism of the implied excessive share of NI contributions is of long standing, as is relevant to the belief proclaimed for years, but found incorrect, that Britain's level of direct taxation was higher than anyone else's. Yours faithfully, STEPHAN SCHATTMANN, 65c Wigmore Street, W1, June 28.

Colour conscious

From Mr Charles Miskin Sir, Mrs Sutherland (July 4) is right - size is everything; the daffodil-coloured canvases must be parked in the blooming fields of oil seed rape. Yours etc, CHARLES MISKIN, 3 Temple Gardens, Temple, EC4, July 4.

Second thoughts on death penalty

From Mr James Stanton Sir, It was, presumably, in the ordered calm of counsel's chambers that John Alliot, QC, composed his letter (July 2) deploring the restoration of capital punishment. Murder to him and to the signatories of thatmissive is, I deduce, an academic subject. It relates to a brief from solicitors, interviews with an accused now on his best behaviour and reasoned argument in a court of law.

To others the crime of murder may impress differently. As a former police officer, it is now some twenty-odd years since I last stared down at the face of a murder victim. He was a shopkeeper strangled with piano wire in the furtherance of theft. Memories of other murder circumstances are still vivid: a policeman with his throat cut from ear to ear, a body blasted with a shotgun at close range; hideous injuries inflicted by axe; visits to the mortuary; post-mortem examinations; the smell of death; and, inevitably, the anguish of the victim's relatives.

In those days I believed, as I still do, in the wisdom extolled by the then Lord Chief Justice, Lord Goddard, when he said: "Murder is a crime sui generis - it stands by itself, the man who commits the supreme crime should pay the supreme penalty". But in fairness to contemporary murderers it would be quite wrong to restore capital punishment without revising all the provisions of the Homicide Act.

As a result of this legislation far too many killers who have murdered with malice aforethought or in the course of a criminal enterprise are acquitted of murder and dealt with for so-called manslaughter; and in some instances these killers are awarded sentences which are derisory. Thus it would be unjust to introduce a system whereby one monstrous beast went to the gallows whilst another, equally monstrous, left the dock rejoicing in his good fortune.

John Alliot and his friends, however, need not worry unduly about the restoration of the death penalty. Our politicians are not particularly renowned for perception and resolution. A move towards restoration is, I predict, a lost cause. Yours faithfully, JAMES STANTON, 7 Romney Close, Birmingham, July 4.

From Lord Shawcross, QC

Sir, Whilst nobody in this country would wish to see the so-called "people's courts" to be found in some Communist countries, still less lynching or mob law, it is important, if the general public is to have confidence in the administration of justice, that the penal system should in some measure reflect the general public sentiment. And there is little doubt that retribution is an element in the popular conception of justice and must be given some weight in sentencing policy. Yet few amongst us would, if it came to the point, be willing personally to cast the first stone. And it must be wrong to be content that others should do vicariously in our name what we would not be willing to do ourselves.

But my own view about the death penalty is the consequence of severely practical rather than ethical considerations. As one who, when at the Bar, had appeared on the instructions of the Director of Public Prosecutions in a number of murder

cases and occasionally for the defence, I became convinced that the death penalty was rarely, if ever, a deterrent, that its existence always led juries to be much more hesitant in convicting guilty men than they would otherwise have been and that the general effect of its administration was seriously anti-social.

Official material which was available to me when I became Attorney General in Mr Attlee's Administration (1945-50) confirmed me in this view and I believed that total abolition was the correct course. Although I introduced into the House of Commons a Bill providing for degrees of murder I did so with the utmost reluctance and only after being persuaded by the then Prime Minister and Home Secretary not to resign as I would have preferred to do, for I was then and now remain by experience the more convinced that it is quite impracticable to define degrees of guilt in that way.

But all that was long ago and since the abolition of the death penalty the murder rate has gravely increased and the lives of very many innocent victims have been taken, often in shocking circumstances which have caused us all the utmost loathing. I confess that I have been gravely concerned about the correctness of my own view that the death penalty is not a deterrent. Yet calm examination of the statistics shows that the increase is, at least in the main, in those classes of murder which, under the proposals now being canvassed, would in any event not attract the death penalty.

It remains true that the deliberate murderer who premeditates his crime does so in the conviction that he will not be caught. And with the knowledge that even if things go wrong and he is arrested the chances of a not-guilty verdict are much in his favour.

It would be deplorable if we were now to join the totalitarian countries in reimposing a death penalty which, with only one other exception, all the countries in Europe have long since renounced. The necessary element of retribution should be provided by a mandatory sentence of 20 years' imprisonment with no provision for the parole after a comparatively short term which sometimes offends public sentiment now. Yours faithfully, HARTLEY SHAWCROSS, House of Lords, July 5.

From the Bishop of Chichester

Sir, The Royal Commission on Capital Punishment said: "the ambition that prompts an average of five applications a week for the post of hangman, and the craving that draws a crowd to the prison where a notorious murderer is being executed, reveal psychological qualities of a sort that no state would wish to foster in its citizens."

This comment, along with the fact that some people have been convicted and some hanged for murders that they had not committed, needs to be given great weight when capital punishment is defended on grounds of retribution. In my opinion these two considerations settle the matter, particularly as there is no conclusive argument from deterrence. Yours truly, ERIC CICESTR, The Palace, Chichester, July 6.

Home truths

From Mr H. William-Olsson Sir, In our neighbourhood there are hundreds of flats for sale, none to let. The interests of sitting tenants, many of them elderly people living in basements, must obviously be protected, but if the Rent Restriction Act were to be cancelled for all new agreements the following advantages would accrue:

A vast number of homes in London and elsewhere would very quickly be available. Young couples would not have to burden themselves with large debts at exorbitant interest in order to find a home. They would be mobile, as young people should be, and, paying for their homes out of current income, the demand for building society loans would fall drastically. Consequently the interest charged by these societies would have to come down, an important factor in the fight against inflation.

Furthermore, as owners of houses

would have an incentive to maintain their properties in order to let successfully, the vast capital locked up in large Victorian houses would be saved from the present disgraceful decay. Employment in the building industries would be stimulated.

It is astonishing that when we want to find a home the state deprives us of the elementary human right of citizens freely to negotiate agreements to their mutual advantage. As so often, the denial of freedom leads to cruel results.

Some years ago I tried to find a small bed-sitting room for an elderly ex-Serviceman. I failed because only foreign students could be relied upon not to stay on for ever. My friend, quite capable of looking after himself, was forced into an old-age home, an unwilling burden on public finance. Yours faithfully, H. WILLIAM-OLSSON, 11 Fawcett Street, SW10, June 28.

Drug offenders

From Mr Hugh Pierce Sir, P. J. Barlow, writing as a former British Consul, (June 24) suggests that the ratification of prisoner transfer treaties and the repatriation of offenders such as John Du Cane would undermine the efforts of governments in developing countries to suppress traffic in narcotics. The suggestion is surprising in the light of Thailand's readiness to ratify treaties with the USA, Canada, France, Spain and Italy. His suggestion has no support from drug-enforcement experts in the USA.

Our own Government is dragging its feet and on this basic humanitarian question its signature to the Convention is long overdue. Mr Barlow asks whether we can with consistency allow John Du Cane to serve a shorter sentence in a British jail and at the same time support efforts to suppress the drug traffic. The answer is yes, of course we can. Mr Barlow's implication that only by allowing an addict to remain in a Thai jail for over 30 years do we adequately signal our own abhorrence of drug trafficking is itself horrendous. Yours etc, HUGH PIERCE, 11 Wood Lane, Highgate, N6, June 28.

At the nursery end

From Mr Peter Waine Sir, This year - a not untypical one - a mere handful of spectators turned up daily to watch the Varsity match at Lord's. In the height of summer, in the middle of the cricket season, in lovely weather and at the home of cricket, such a large percentage of those present are players, how can the continued staging of the event at Lord's be justified?

The truth, which seems to be unpalatable now only to a handful, is that the universities are no longer a sufficient attraction; their performance is unimpressive even against counties fielding their weaker teams and they have long ceased to be a nursery for the England eleven. If the perpetuation of the event is on the grounds of tradition, then I suggest that more traditionalists support the event; otherwise the traditionalists' case will be even more vulnerable, the continuation of the event even less defensible and the prevention of genuine first-class cricket at Lord's at the end of June even more scandalous. Yours faithfully, PETER WAINE, Oak Tree Cottage, 108 Handside Lane, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, July 2.

Joint approach to social policy

From the Director of the Family Policy Studies Centre Sir, Peter Hennessy ("Whitehall brief", June 21), rightly emphasised the need for government to be "briefed in a fashion that raises their sights above day-to-day preoccupations". The Government's decision to axe the Central Policy Review Staff, the "think tank", therefore has implications for all areas of government, but it is particularly serious for social policy.

In 1975 the CPRS in a notable report advocated a joint approach to social policy, arguing for "improved coordination between services as they affect the individual", and better analysis of, and policy prescriptions for, complex problems - especially when they are the concern of more than one department. This plea from the CPRS was not before time because increasingly, from the late sixties onwards, social issues and problems have been discussed in ways which do not match bureaucratic structures.

Several examples of the disbenefits of a disjointed approach to social policy come from the field of family policy. The division of responsibility for the under-fives between the DHSS (concerned with welfare) and the DES (focusing on education) has, for example, contributed to a failure to develop the right mix of provisions which is best suited to contemporary family and working patterns.

Similarly, the combined effect of a host of means-tested benefits introduced by several government departments over many years has produced a complex and often incomprehensible system of income support which then interacts in often unpredictable ways with the tax and National Insurance systems. This complexity leads to a failure to claim benefits by many needy families and the well-known problem of the poverty trap.

A further example is provided by the ageing of the population, certainly one of the major social challenges facing Britain. If we are to provide adequate care and support for an increasing number of frail elderly people - the number of persons over 75 will increase by some 900,000 between 1975 and the year 2000 - we need a joint approach across Whitehall, encompassing social security, health and welfare, housing and taxation policies.

Social policy is too important to be left to spending departments alone or to the Treasury. If needs are to be met, and if we are to receive value for money, we need a greater emphasis on social planning and strategic thinking in the light of changing family and work patterns that are now such a prominent feature of British society. Yours faithfully, MALCOLM WICKS, Director, Family Policy Studies Centre, 3 Park Road, NW1, June 29.

Nuclear skeletons

From Mr Steve Howell Sir, Under the heading, "Fact of Secrecy" your leader on June 30 commented that "the Warsaw Pact, unlike Nato, is not an alliance of independent states which can reach important political decisions only after long debate and public discussion."

On the opposite page a feature article described the history of the Nato decision to site cruise missiles in Britain and stated that "All British governments handle nuclear matters with extreme secrecy". The fact that most of the Labour Cabinet, like most of the public, knew little or nothing of these debates and decisions says a good deal about the internal politics of the Labour Party and the obsessive secrecy of British government in general.

Perhaps we should put our own house in order - or get out of Nato. Yours faithfully, STEVE HOWELL, 139 Scott Road, Sheffield, July 1.

Stirring the odium

From the Director of Church Society Sir, Clifford Longley's plea (feature, June 27) for a more lively approach to theological journalism is to be welcomed. The Council of Church Society has sought to fulfil this aim in its reorganization of Churchman.

Far from seeking to "play it safe" and avoid upsetting people, as Mr Longley suggests, the intention is to escape from the stagnation of consensus, in which every view must be balanced and neutralized (?) by its opposite, and to give some bite to the society's publication by the clear expression of the biblical principles underlying evangelical Protestantism. Am I right in thinking that this will supply the "hint of odium theologium" that Mr Longley is looking for? Yours faithfully, DAVID SAMUEL, Director, Church Society, Whitefield House, 186 Kensington Park Road, SE11, June 27.

Wayward water

From Mr Colin Bishopp Sir, How very appropriate that a variation on the ploughshare effect theme should have been resolved for us today (July 6) by a professor from the University of Bath. Yours truly, COLIN BISHOPP, Holly House, Woodville Road, Tringham, Cheshire, July 6.

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE July 7: His Excellency Mr A. M. K. Bogan and Mrs Bogan were received in farewell audience by the Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for the Gambia in London.

commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the University. His Royal Highness was received on arrival at Old College by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the City of Edinburgh (Councillor Tom Morgan, the Right Hon the Lord Provost), the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University (Dr J. H. Burden) and The Secretary (Mr A. M. Currie).

United Biscuits Factory at Harlewood. Lady Angela Oswald and Sir Martin Gillies were in attendance. Her Majesty this evening visited the Exhibition of Tudor and early Stuart Miniatures at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. Assael and Miss S. Foremy The engagement is announced between John, twin son of the late Mr and Mrs S. W. Assael, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. K. Winterbottom, Southampton, Merseyside.

Mr J. R. Hepworth and Miss A. E. van Schelle The engagement is announced between James Richard, youngest son of Mr A. D. Hepworth, of Alderley Edge, Cheshire, and the late Mrs Hepworth and Anne Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. D. Hepworth, of Wassenaar, Holland.

Eton Summer Half at Eton College ends today. Mr R. M. A. Bourne is retiring after 36 years, and Mr F. P. Moran is leaving to take up his appointment as head of King David School, Hampstead. Mr D. N. Callender is giving up his house. The house IVs were won by Mr J. N. B. Cook's and the aquatic cup was won by Dr. Harrison's. In the final of the house cricket Mr P. L. Holden's defeated Mr R. P. C. Forman's by 36 runs. Michaelmas half begins on September 13.

Latest appointments

Vice-Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson, Controller of the Navy, is to be promoted Admiral on August 1, to take up his appointment as Controller of the Navy in London.

Birthdays today

Lord Allen of Abbeylea, 71; Mr Jon Bannerman, 54; Dr R. S. Barnes, 59; Dr Kate Bertram, 71; Marshall of the RAF Lord Cameron, 69; Air Vice-Marshal Sir Victor Tait, 91; Sir Peter Watkin Williams, 72; Air Chief Marshal Sir Neil Wheeler, 66; Lieutenant-General Sir John Worsley, 71.

Ardingly College

Summer Term ends today with Commemoration Day. Mr C. H. Butcher is the guest speaker. The following awards have been made for 1983-84.

Legal

Mr Justice Skinner to be a presiding judge on the Midland and Oxford Circuit in succession to Mr Justice Drake, from January 1.

Coningsby Club

The following have been elected officers of the Coningsby Club for the next year.

Cambridge University tripos examination results

The following Tripos examination results are announced. * denotes Distinction. Natural Sciences Tripos, Part I A. The symbol (m) indicates that a candidate has attained the qualifying standard for mathematics for Part IB of the Tripos.

OBITUARY MOST REV PHILIP STRONG

Former Primate of Australia The Most Rev Philip Nigel Warrington Strong, KBE, CMC, who died on July 6 in Warragatta, Victoria, at the age of 83, was Bishop of New Guinea from 1936 to 1962, including the difficult period of the Japanese occupation during the Second World War, and after that became Archbishop of Brisbane and Primate of Australia.

Strong was born on July 11, 1899, a son of the manse, and had a devout evangelical upbringing. He was educated at King's School, Worcester, and commissioned in the Royal Engineers just before the end of the First World War. He then went to Selwyn College, Cambridge, and Bishops' College, Cheshunt, and by the time he had completed his studies his deepest personal commitment to Christ had been complemented by a whole-hearted acceptance of disciplined Anglo-Catholic sacramentalism and spirituality.

He was ordained by Bishop Hensley Henson of Durham, who had a high opinion of him and called him back from his first slum parish in Leeds to be vicar of St Ignatius the Martyr church in Sunderland. Another who was impressed was Cosmo Gordon Lang, Archbishop of Canterbury, and he was responsible for Strong's appointment to the bishopric of New Guinea in 1936. In his chapel, on the night before the consecration, Lang pointed to the crucifix and said to Strong: "There will be more of that in your life than there has been in mine."

Strong's trials came six years later when the Japanese army invaded Papua New Guinea, inspired by their courageous Bishop, who himself experienced bombing and machine-gunning, the entire staff (expatriate and national, men and women) stood by their posts to the last. Twelve were killed.

Strong suffered deeply from uninformed and bitter personal criticism in Australia and elsewhere for his not having insisted on the removal of his missionaries to safety. But Strong believed the hard course to have been the right one, and Strong became something of a hero throughout Australasia.

MISS EDITH RAMSAY

Miss Edith Ramsay, MBE, who died on June 29, aged 88, gave a lifetime of service to the people of Steyney and was personally known to thousands of the residents. She was born in London of Scottish parents; her father was the first minister of the Highgate Presbyterian Church from 1889-1922.

Edith, via an open scholarship, attended the North London Collegiate School, subsequently taking BA at Bedford College. In 1933 she gained a BA(Hons) in social science at the London School of Economics. She came to Steyney to a teaching post at the Old Castle Street Day Continuation School. From 1922-25 she was Children's Care Organiser, and it was during these years that she stayed as an inmate at women's hostels and lodging houses, the better to report on actual conditions for women and children.

Although she returned to work in education in 1926, she continued until her mid eighties as a very active voluntary social worker, working with and for many organizations connected with children, their schools, alcoholics, Toynbee Hall, the People's Palace and the London Hospital.

Appointed Head of Heckford Street Evening Institute (later Steyney Women's Educational Institute) in 1931, she held the post until retirement in 1960. Every girl leaving school in the area in those decades met and knew Miss Ramsay.

Literacy was a high priority for her Institute which served other companies, besides holding numerous directorships.

Three weeks before her death an attractive development of sheltered flats named after her was opened in Duckett Street, a fitting reminder of her work for Steyney's people, and the last engagement she was able to attend.

MR RICHARD LEE

Mr Richard Lee, CBE, who died on July 6 at the age of 78, was a leading Hongkong businessman who had also played a notable role in the colony's political life since the war.

Merchant Tailors' Company

The following officials of the Merchant Tailors' Company have been elected for the year beginning on July 14.

Tallow Chandlers' Company

The Tallow Chandlers' Company has elected the following officers for the ensuing year.

Saddlers' Company

At a court meeting held on July 5 the following were elected Master and Wardens of the Saddlers' Company for the ensuing year.

Chartered Secretaries' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Company of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators for the ensuing year.

Cordwainers' Company

The following officials of the Cordwainers' Company have been elected for the ensuing year.

Masons' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Masons' Company for the ensuing year.

Luncheons

HM Government Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, was host at a luncheon at Lancaster House yesterday in honour of Mr V.C. Bird, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda.

Reception

Standing Council of the Baronetage Sir Peter Troubridge, Chairman of the Standing Council of the Baronetage, and the Hon Lady Troubridge were the hosts at a reception held yesterday at the Travellers' Club.

Dinners

Prime Minister The Prime Minister and Mr Denis Thatcher were hosts at a dinner at 10 Downing Street yesterday in celebration of Glyndebourne's tenth birthday and its appeal. The guests were: The Earl and Countess of Gower, Mr and Mrs Robert Rotherham, Baron Melor and Mrs Robert Rotherham, the Hon David and Mrs John and Mrs Lady Salisbury, the Hon Sir John and Mrs Lady Salisbury, the Hon Sir John and Mrs Lady Salisbury, the Hon Sir John and Mrs Lady Salisbury.

Meeting

Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship The Eightysecond annual meeting of the Victoria League for Commonwealth Friendship was held at the Mansion House on July 7, 1983, by permission of the Lord Mayor, Sir Anthony Jolliffe.

Memorial service

Sir George Bessford-Stooke. A memorial service for Sir George Bessford-Stooke was held in the Chapel of St Michael and St George, St Paul's Cathedral, yesterday. The Dean of St Paul's announced the blessing, Canon Douglas Webster read the lesson, the Rev Neville Kent read from the works of Miss Louise Haskins and the Rev Canon Beck led the prayers.

Latest wills

Lady Delverton, of Hamswell, Bath, left £702,628 net. Other estates include (not before tax): Doris Adrienne Martin, of Borden, Hampshire, £299,835; Caston, Mr Alfred, of Thorpe St Hill, Norfolk, £419,721; Hill, Mr Bertram Alan, of Cheam, Surrey, £237,469; Owen, Mr Thomas Richard Hor-

New Zealander wins children's book award

Margaret Mahy, a New Zealand author, is this year's winner of the Library Association's Carnegie Medal awarded for a distinguished book for children. The winning book is about the interplay of magic powers among the members of an extended family.

Planning award

Sir Desmond Heap, the solicitor, has been awarded a Royal Town Planning Institute's gold medal for outstanding achievement in town and country planning.

Middle Temple

Rear-Admiral J. R. Hill has been appointed Under Treasurer of the Middle Temple with effect from February 1, 1984, in succession to Captain J. B. Morrison, RN.

Merchant Tailors' Company

The following officials of the Merchant Tailors' Company have been elected for the year beginning on July 14: Master, Mr D. T. H. Nicholson; First Upper Warden, Mr Deputy M. H. Oram; Second Upper Warden, Mr P. H. Ryan; Upper Renter Warden, Lord Aldenham; Under Renter Warden, Mr G. P. Theobald.

Tallow Chandlers' Company

The Tallow Chandlers' Company has elected the following officers for the ensuing year: Master, Mr F. Leslie Living; deputy master, Mr Charles C. Living; wardens, Mr N. M. Wells, Mr G. R. Jones, Sir Christopher Laidlaw, Mr J. H. Poynter.

Chartered Secretaries' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Company of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators for the ensuing year: Master, Miss Sylvia Tutt; Senior Warden, Mr Robin Clark; Junior Warden, Mr Leslie Croydton.

Saddlers' Company

At a court meeting held on July 5 the following were elected Master and Wardens of the Saddlers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr Gordon Tait; Uppr Warden, Mr C. F. Barclay; Key Warden, Mr C. Taylor; Quarter Warden, Mr T. P. Salisbury; Renter Warden, Mr P. G. Glossop.

Cordwainers' Company

The following officials of the Cordwainers' Company have been elected for the ensuing year: Master, Mr Denis Thomas; Uppr Warden, Mr A. M. S. Johnson; Second Warden, Mr A. M. S. Johnson; Quarter Warden, Mr M. J. R. Taylor.

Masons' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Masons' Company for the ensuing year: Master, Mr Gordon Tait; Uppr Warden, Mr C. F. Barclay; Key Warden, Mr C. Taylor; Quarter Warden, Mr T. P. Salisbury; Renter Warden, Mr P. G. Glossop.

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Investment and Finance

City Editor Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

City Office 200 Gray's Inn Road London WC1X 8EZ Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 891.0, down 5.6. FT 100 Index 80.33, down 0.15. Bergaines 20,020. Datastream USM Leaders Index 95.85, up 0.13. New York Dow Jones Average (midday), 1,213.84, down 6.81. Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index, 9,015.76, up 30.88. Hongkong Hang Seng Index, 1,033.39, up 16.98. Amsterdam Index 149.4, up 2.8. Sydney: A O Index 811.4, up 8.1. Frankfurt Commerzbank Index, 986.30, up 18.4. Brussels General Index, 129.28, up 1.5. Paris C A C Index 128.1, up 0.8. Zurich S K A General 286.9, up 0.8.

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE Sterling \$1,538.0 down 10 pts Index 85.1 unchanged DM 3,965.0 down 0.01 FrF 11,800.0 up 0.025 Yen 370.50 up 1.25 Dollar DM 2,577.0 Index 125.7 up 0.1 NEW YORK LATEST Sterling \$1,539.0-1,540.5 INTERNATIONAL ECU 20.573822 SDR 20.583832

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Bank base rate 9 1/2. Finance houses base rate 10 1/2. Discount market loans week fixed 9 1/2-3 month interbank 10-9 1/2. Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 9 1/2-10. 3 month DM 8 1/2-9 1/2. 3 month FrF 14 1/2-14 3/4. US rates: Bank prime rate 10.50. Fed Funds 9 1/2. Treasury bill bond 91 30/32. ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period June 8 to July 5, 1983 inclusive: 9.876 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): am \$414.25; pm \$412.25. Ounce \$412.00. New York latest: \$412.25. Kruggerand (per coin): \$424.00-425.50 (£275.50-278.50). Sovereigns* (new): \$98.50-97.50 (£82.75-83.50) *excludes VAT.

TODAY

Interims: Capital Reserve Fund, TSL Thermal Syndicate. Finalists: Braham Miller Group, James H Dennis, Executec Clothes, Fuller Smith & Turner, Highgate Optical & Industrial, Stonehill Holdings.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Buckley's Brewery, The Rympack, Cwbrwa, Swansea (10.45). Fidelity Radio, Portman International, Gloucester Suite, 22 Portman Square, London W1 (11.00). First Castle Electronics, Waterford Mill, Darwen, Lancs (noon). Incheape, Queens Room, Baltic Exchange, 14/20 St Mary Axe (noon). Lynton Holdings, 1/2 Mason's Arms Mews, Maddox Street, W1 (noon). Morgan Crucible Company, Institute of Directors, 116 Pall Mall, SW1 (11.30). Solihull, the Albany Room, White House, Albany Street (Albany Street entrance), NW1 (11.00).

NOTEBOOK

Chartered Consolidated has sold 2.5 million shares in Minicor, for \$12.81 each, to raise about £20m. The sale reduces its stake in Minicor from 9.3 per cent to 7.9 per cent. But the deal should not be seen as closely connected with Minicor's recent lowering of its holding in Pibro-Salomon. F. H. Lloyd Holdings, one of Britain's largest steel casting and foundry groups, yesterday reported losses of £4.8m last year, compared with pretax profits of £309,000 the previous year. Despite extensive rationalization, the foundry industry is still in trouble, the board said. Granada Group reports a 12 per cent drop in interim profits and says that the large contributions being made to Channel Four are partly to blame.

BP and Britoil marked down on City fears

Treasury expected to raise £500m with sale of quoted shares

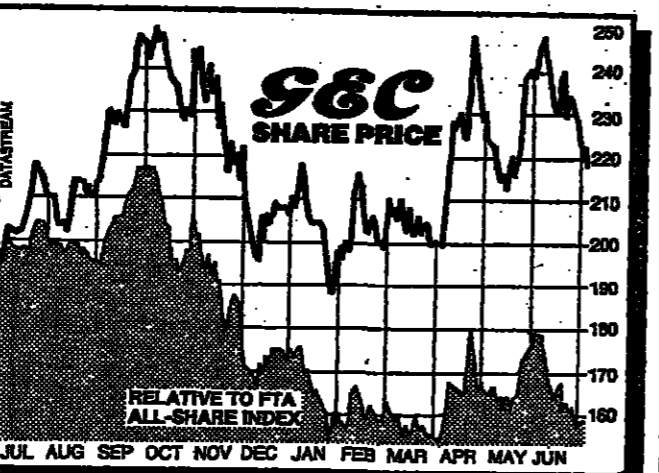
By Graham Searjeant

The Treasury is to raise another £500m in special asset sales in the current financial year to help bring the burgeoning public sector borrowing requirement nearer to the £3bn forecast at the time of the Budget. Although neither Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor nor the Treasury could say how this was to be done yesterday, the City was already assuming that the Government would take the easiest route by selling further tranches of shares in companies already quoted on the Stock Exchange. But government sources discount this idea. BP shares, up to 430p early in the day, traded as low as 418p

after hours on the Stock Exchange and Britoil, up to 226p earlier, closed at 214p. The Government could raise the extra £500m by selling about 7 per cent of BP shares from its 39 per cent holding. However, this would absorb cash from the big City institutions at a time when the Government has an equally pressing need to sell them more gilt-edged stock. Until yesterday, the Budget allowed for only £750m from special asset sales this year. That figure included £290m from the second payment for Britoil shares, already received. The booked sales of the

British Gas Corporation's oil interest would easily have made up the remainder. The Wyth Farm oil field in Dorset was expected to raise a minimum of £200m, although some of that might be spread over future years. The British Gas stakes in six North Sea oilfields are thought to be worth £350-£500m. The Government has already announced further privatization measures, which would dwarf immediate needs. British Telecom alone could be worth £3bn to £5bn. British Airways and Royal Ordnance factories are also worth large sums on their own.

However, it would be difficult to bring forward such big sales from their existing target dates - autumn 1984 in the case of British Telecom and 1985-86 for British Airways. Legislation has not yet been put through Parliament for the privatization of either British Telecom or the Ordnance factories. However, there are plans to sell off smaller chunks of assets and parts of nationalized industries and state-controlled companies, which might be brought forward into the current year. High on this list are subsidiaries of BL, such as Unipart,



Cash mountain lifts GEC profit to £670m

By Philip Robinson

GEC, Britain's largest company, making almost as much from its cash mountain as from mainstream businesses. For the year to March 31 last, pretax profits rose almost 15 per cent to £670m on a turnover up from £4.9bn to £5.46bn. Almost a third of profits came from its traditional electronics and telecommunications businesses, but a further £178m was earned as interest on its capital. That was boosted by £30m during the year and stands at £1.319 bn. GEC's group profits were in line with the expectations of stock market analysts, who got the overall picture right but were out on the individual contributions. The biggest surprise was the dull performance - compared with rivals Plessey and Ferranti - of electronics, up just 6 per cent to £224m. However, analysts are looking for an under-demanding £775m pretax profit for the current year and for just below the £1bn profits level in 1984-5. GEC says business has been good since the year end, and sees further improvements

US likely to check recovery

From Bailey Morris Washington

Speculation is rife here that the Federal Reserve Board will move next week to increase the cost of funds to banks to push up short-term interest rates and slow the pace of recovery. Reports in both the Washington Post and in the newsletters of leading brokerage houses that the US discount rate would be raised by one-half to 8.5 per cent drew a strong response from the White House. Mr Larry Speakes, the chief White House spokesman, issued a statement to influence the central bank's policy by stating the Administration's "strong opposition" to a rise in the Federal discount rate. "We do not want to see the discount rate raised. We think money supply growth can be brought back into line slowly, using other money control mechanisms than the discount rate," he said. The conviction has been growing for the past two weeks that the strong recovery and continuing sharp increases in the money supply, the Federal Reserve has little choice but to tighten credit to prevent a resurgence of inflation. The powerful open market committee of the US central bank, faced with a recovery many analysts fear could speed out of control, will meet on Tuesday. It is widely expected to raise its growth by taking a policy decision to allow interest rates to rise.

Tighter credit for developing nations

By Peter Wilson-Smith Banking Correspondent

Tougher credit conditions for borrowing countries, especially in the developing world, are revealed in the latest banking statistics from the Basle-based Bank for International Settlements published today. Reporting on developments in the second half of last year, the BIS figures show sharp reductions in unused credit facilities available to borrowing countries. During the second half of last year Latin American borrowers drew nearly \$10bn from the international banking system of which about \$5bn represented new loans - mainly for Brazil - and the rest reflected a \$4.9bn reduction in deposits with international banks. The BIS figures also show how banks reduced their short-term exposures to Latin American borrowers last year in reaction to the problems of Latin American unused commitments slipped from 13.1 per cent of their total borrowings at the half-year to 8.4 per cent by the end of last year. The BIS says that at mid-1978, when the figures were first compiled, the proportion was 24.7 per cent. Total unused credit commitments fell from \$106.4bn (£69bn) at the middle of last year to \$91.3bn at the end of last year with particularly sharp falls in unused facilities available to Asian and Latin American borrowers. The group's overseas activities, particularly in America had a good year, though weak

Profits recover at Unigate

By Our Financial Staff

Unigate, the dairy group, pushed up pretax profits from £38.2m to £43.7m in the year to March 31. As forecast, the group has had a much better second half after a difficult first six months when pretax profits slipped from £20.1m to £15.8m. The full-year improvement reflects a big turnaround in the meat division from trading losses of £4.7m the previous year to a £2.4m profit. The group's overseas activities, particularly in America had a good year, though weak

City Editor's Comment

Why investment in Sterling is right

Mr Jeffrey Sterling, the highly successful businessman, will be named on Monday as a special adviser to Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary for Trade and Industry, according to the gossip in Whitehall last night. The same Mr Sterling worked admirably with Mr Patrick Jenkin at the Department of Industry in the last administration, and there would be few who would have argued at the beginning of this week that he was not an ideal choice as adviser to the new government. But events of the past two days give reason to pause, if not to rethink the appointment, for on Thursday, Mr Sterling was made deputy chairman of P & O, the shipping and industrial group. And as an interview with The Times, published this morning, suggests he would not be averse to running the group. But herein lies the problem. P & O is under attack from Trafalgar House and the Commission on Monopolies and Mergers is, now examining whether it would be in the public interest to allow the bid to proceed. P & O would naturally like the commission to block the bid, and it, no doubt, feels that Mr Sterling with his knowledge of the Whitehall workings will be a source of invaluable tactical advice. That much is fair enough. But it does raise the question of whether this is the time for Mr Sterling to wear two hats - one as a key member of the P & O board hoping to persuade the commission to come to a certain decision; and the other as adviser to the Minister who is, ultimately, responsible for deciding what action to take on the commission's recommendations. There is no question that anyone would behave with anything but the utmost propriety but it nevertheless threatens to be an unfortunate coincidence of timing. Whitehall is plainly aware of this and next week's statement, when it comes, will make clear that Mr Sterling will have absolutely nothing to do with the P & O bid and the Monopolies Commission's investigation, will be denied access to all the paperwork, and will not be privy to any of the meetings. The net result then is that though the appointment might raise a few eyebrows, this is one occasion when it is reasonable to allow Mr Sterling to do both jobs, as the safeguards for all concerned seem perfectly adequate - to say nothing of the fact that there are few enough businessmen of Mr Sterling's calibre around for them casually to be debauched. But in spite of these safeguards the issue is made more complex by Mr Sterling's evident arrival on the scene and his personal interest in the future of P & O. One of the reasons why the City was tempted to welcome Trafalgar House - if not the price it was prepared to pay - was that its management was seen to be more aggressive than that of the shipping group. But if Mr Sterling is prepared to merge part of his business into P & O and, thereby, bring into the company several of the key executives who have laboured with him so effectively in restoring Town and City to health, then the City might feel that P & O itself has access to a management team which could do as much for the group as Mr Brookes. The more one thinks of these two head to head in a bid battle, the more enthralling the prospect becomes. One is almost tempted to hope that the Monopolies Commission, does give the bid clearance and leaves it to the market to decide. Sterling service, page 17

WALL STREET

Shares fall then steady

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Wall Street stocks were broadly lower yesterday, but showed signs of steadying. The Dow Jones industrial average fell five points to 1,215. It had been down eight points earlier. Declining issues were seven-to-five ahead of advances in active trading. American Telephone & Telegraph at 62 1/2 was down 1/2. International Business Machines was 121 1/2, down 1/2. General Electric at 53 1/2, was up 1/2. General Motors at 70 1/2, was up 1/2. Coca-Cola at 48 1/2, was up 1/2. Teledyne at 166 1/2, was up 1/2. Exxon at 34 1/2, was down 1/2. Ford at 54 1/2, was up 1/2. Procter & Gamble at 56 1/2, was up 1/2. Honeywell at 113 1/2, was down 1/2. and Rehm & Hess at 76 1/2, was up 1/2. Union Pacific was up 1/2 at 57 1/2. Northwest Airlines was down 1/2 at 51 1/2. Digital Equipment was down 1/2 to 117 1/2. Sears Roebuck was down 1/2 at 40 1/2. R H Macy was up 1 at 58 1/2, and Monsanto was down 1 at 86 1/2. Government coupon securities prices fell sharply in reaction to a report in the Washington Post quoting Federal Reserve sources saying the Fed is likely to raise the discount rate soon.

Europa Hotel deal gives US group a British stake

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Grand Metropolitan's Europa Hotel in Grosvenor Square, Mayfair, the group's flagship hotel until it took over the international chain, has been sold to Marriott, one of the top three up-market hotel operators in the United States. The deal is thought to be worth around £14m. It gives Marriott its first foothold in Britain after an eight-year search. After Hyatt moved into the Carlton Tower Marriott was the only big international chain without a property in Britain. The sale is a surprise because although Grand Metropolitan put six more of its hotels on the market in April the Europa was not among them and Stanley Grinstead, Grand Met's chairman, indicated that was the end of its disposal programme except for a possible sale in Europe. But Grand Met would have been faced with considerable spending on the Europa to put it

End of BAC 1-11 production in UK

BaE reject for Romania

By John Lawless

British Aerospace was the process of winding down its Hum factory near Bournemouth yesterday with the loss of 2,097 jobs, because it is unable to sell any more BAC 1-11s. The factory is to close next year. The factory is to close next year. In Rumania, however, the 12,000 workers at the Banesti aviation plant, close to Bucharest's Otopeni international airport, will shortly be celebrating the first sale of their new short-haul jet aircraft - a BAC 1-11. Rumania obtained the right to make the aircraft under licence five years ago last month during a state visit to Britain by President Ceausescu. So far, it has built two, which have gone into service with its state airline, Tarom, one flying into London. A principal reason why Rumania is negotiating with 20

possible buyers of an aircraft that Britain has rejected is that it is able to deal with customers which Britain's Export Credit Guarantee Department would not be able to insure. Rumania, with its urgent need to develop new industries and fresh sources of hard currency is prepared to accept risks which advanced western nations would not take. It is also selling to customers who are not so bothered about quality levels. British Aerospace had to set up offices in the Intercontinental hotel in Bucharest its executives to handle the large variety of Rumanian-made goods taken in exchange for the knocked-down kits of BAC 1-11s that are being locally assembled. From the 22nd aircraft onwards, however, all parts will be made in Rumania. Its agreement covers the building of 80 aircraft - a bold step considering that, since Britain launched the aircraft in August, 1963, it has sold only 232. The aircraft clearly has a sales potential amongst developing countries and British Aerospace admits that it failed to develop the basic product to meet market demands. The BAC 1-11 was quickly followed into production by Boeing (with its 737) and McDonnell Douglas (with its DC9). Updated versions of its rivals, with new flight decks and better engines, have notched up sales of more than 1,000 aircraft, and are still selling. Rumania has re-established the once world-famous aircraft industry it lost because of the last war. Rumania makes Rolls-Royce Spey engines under licence, as well as French helicopters, and a jet fighter in conjunction with Yugoslavia.

GRANADA GROUP

Results for 28 weeks ended 16 April 1983 (unaudited)

Table with 4 columns: Item, 1983 £000, 1982 £000, 53 weeks ended 2 October 1982 £000. Rows include Turnover, Trading surplus for period, Depreciation-rental assets, Interest payable, Profit before employee share scheme, Profit before taxation, Taxation, Profit after taxation, Minority interests, Earnings per share, Dividend per share.

- 1 The results are prepared under the historical cost convention. 2 Turnover is up by 14 per cent, and trading surplus by 17 per cent. on the corresponding period last year. Depreciation is 31 per cent higher and interest payable has doubled, reflecting the Group's development programme and expenditure on rental assets. As a result, profit before taxation is 12 per cent below 1982. The outcome for the year as a whole is likely to show a similar pattern. 3 The results have been adversely affected by lower profits from UK television rental due to increased depreciation and interest charges; substantial increases in payments to the IBA particularly for subscription to Channel 4; poor underwriting results by our insurance company in Brussels. Improved results are shown by our overseas rental operation, bingo social clubs and motorway service areas. 4 In the period the Group sold Granada Publishing and received a total of £8.7m in cash. The surplus arising from the sale of shares is not included in the period's results and will be dealt with as an extraordinary item in the Annual Accounts. 5 During the period expenditure incurred on new rental assets in the UK and overseas amounted to £50m (1982-£60m). 6 The amount that may be allocated to the Employee share scheme will be dealt with by the Board when the results for the financial year are known. 7 Earnings per share 5.1p (1982-6.1p) is based on earnings of £8,442,000 (1982-£10,111,000) and on 166,345,031 Ordinary and 'A' (limited voting) Ordinary shares being the average number in issue during the period (1982-165,574,637). 8 An interim dividend of 2.1p per share which, with the related tax credit equals 12 1/2% (1982-11%), an increase of 9% and amounting to £3.5m (1982-£3.2m) will be paid on 1 October 1983 to shareholders on the register at close of business on 26 August 1983. 9 The abridged income statement for the 53 weeks ended 2 October 1982 is an extract from the latest published accounts which have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies; the report of the auditors on those accounts was unqualified.

Alex Bernstein, Chairman 7 July 1983

GRANADA GROUP PLC 36 Golden Square London W1R 4AH

31st JULY 1983 REDEMPTION
TRANSALPINE FINANCE HOLDINGS S.A.
U.S. \$20,000,000 6 3/4% Loan 1985

Transalpine Finance Holdings S.A. announces that for the redemption period ending on 31st July 1983 it has purchased and cancelled bonds of the above Loan for U.S. \$150,000,000 nominal capital and tendered them to the Trustee.

The nominal amount of bonds to be drawn for redemption at par on 31st July 1983 to satisfy the Company's current redemption obligation is accordingly U.S. \$1,025,000 and the nominal amount of this Loan remaining outstanding after 31st July 1983 will be U.S. \$2,375,000.

DRAWING OF BONDS

Notice is accordingly hereby given that a drawing of bonds of the above Loan took place on 21st June 1983 attended by Mr. Keith Francis Croft Baker of the firm of John Venn & Sons, Notary Public, when 1,025 bonds for a total of U.S. \$1,025,000 nominal capital were drawn for redemption at par on 31st July 1983, from which date all interest thereon will cease.

The following are the numbers of the bonds drawn:

Table listing bond numbers from 117 to 1977 in columns.

The above bonds may be presented for payment of the proceeds of redemption at par on or after 31st July 1983 at the offices of the paying agents named on the coupons in the manner specified in Condition 5 of the Terms and Conditions of the Loan printed on the bonds.

Principal Paying Agent: N. M. Rothschild & Sons Limited, New Court, St. Swinthin's Lane, London EC4P 4DU. 8th July 1983

APPOINTMENTS

New group chief for Wimpey

GEORGE WIMPEY: Mr. Nelson Oliver has become a group managing director with responsibility for the British construction division. He has also been appointed chairman of Wimpey Construction UK and continues as chairman of Wimpey Homes Holdings.

CAMREX HOLDINGS: Dr. John Roberts, group managing director of Rubercor, has been appointed chairman in succession to Mr. Stanley Clarke who has resigned.

RACAL RADAR DEFENCE SYSTEMS: Mr. Barton Clarke has become chairman.

FALCON RESOURCES: Mr. J. T. Reston has been made a director.

ASSOCIATED COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION: Mr. M. E. Abbott, chairman of The Hogg Robinson Group, has been appointed a director.

CBI EUROPE COMMITTEE: Mr. Michael Stewart-Smith, chairman of Taylor & Francis, has joined the committee.

COATES BROTHERS: Mr. Robert Jordan has been appointed a director.

CHESTERFIELD PROPERTIES: Mr. Roger Wain has joined the board as a non-executive director. Mr. T. J. Bowen has taken up an appointment overseas.

ROBERT M. DOUGLAS HOLDINGS: Mr. F. W. Carder has become deputy chairman in place of Mr. C. Marston who has retired.

OCEONICS GROUP: Mr. Bruce Mollard has joined the board of Oceonics Equipment Services with special responsibility for developing its Scottish interests.

LINKED LIFE ASSURANCE GROUP: A new chairman and committee for 1983/4 have been elected. Mr. Ralph Sepel, chief executive of Albany Life Assurance Company replaces Mr. John Woolhouse as chairman. Mr. Woolhouse, who is chief executive of Lloyds Life Assurance, continues as an ex-officio member of the committee. Other committee members are: Mr. Paul Bradshaw, Skandia Life; Mr. Peter Connor, Premium Life; Mr. Frederick Dismore, Cornhill Insurance; and Mr. Edward Fairman, Merchant Investors Life.

JOHN FINLAN: Mr. T. S. Jamieson has been made non-executive chairman in succession to Mr. J. Finlan, who becomes deputy chairman. Mr. G. S. Ames relinquishes his position as deputy chairman and remains group managing director. Sir Hugh Fraser and Mr. J. Mallory join the board in a non-executive capacity, and Messrs W. P. Hetherington and F. C. Farrell resign from the board but remain with the company.

Joint action needed for recovery, EEC told

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

A master plan for a European economic recovery by the 1990s was presented to the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday by its joint authors - M. Michel Albert, the left wing French economist and Professor James Ball, the right wing British economist.

Drawn up at a cost of £7,200 as a reference document for the parliament in preparing its own European economic recovery programme next year, the 128-page report criticises the welfare state, petty nationalism, protectionism, trade union attitudes and government policies.

The authors are most scathing of all about the EEC. "The word Europe can only be used in an ironical sense. In this respect there is no such thing as Europe. There is only a non-Europe."

Although the two economists disagree about some of the necessary steps towards recovery, they propose a joint programme for urgent action by the community as a whole, which they claim would put all member states on the road to recovery over the next decade.

M. Albert puts forward a "three times three" plan for job creation. This would mean a

"1984 will be the twelfth consecutive year in which unemployment has increased in Europe, 1985 the thirteenth and 1986 the fourteenth." The report wants an investment drive, particularly in high-technology industries. The community it says, cannot extricate itself from the crisis by "playing the role of wagons attached to the American locomotive. That will only accelerate their decline."

It claims that "the welfare state is restricting growth. Member states have sacrificed the future for the present. In total they have paid for the crisis with credit. One cannot go on like this for ever."

Member states supported the welfare state although the crisis was now making it difficult. Governments are thus "condemned to play Father Christmas."

Above all the report warns against any attempt by one country "to go it alone in pursuit of growth. Success is only possible in a Community context," the report says.

M. Albert puts forward a "three times three" plan for job creation. This would mean a

commitment to a 1 per cent of extra growth each year, with the creation of 3 million jobs. Professor Ball is less sanguine: "wine lakes dry up, butter mountains melt and, in the long run, even unemployment will fall if we are to place any modest credence in the working of market forces."

In outline the report recommends:

- 1. Strengthening the European Monetary System, which argues Britain must join.
2. Lower taxation on profits to allow investment.
3. Smaller salary increases. "We cannot afford in Europe to go on paying ourselves more than our labour earns".
4. Turn the EEC into a real common market. "National interests continue to predominate in industrial matters".
5. Measures to reduce monetary growth in line with a sustained inflation target of less than 5 per cent, along with a progressive reduction in the budget deficits.
6. Encouragement for public capital ventures designed to provide increased services and facilities for industry.
7. Development of an effective energy policy.
8. Greater flexibility in the labour market.
9. Creating European-wide companies with mergers and backing for joint research programmes.

But the main thrust of the report is not so much economic as political. It is an attempt to shock public opinion out of what it sees as "fossilized apathy". Europe has been much harmed by those who insist on talking about it as though it were a dream world, it says. "The time of the sleeping beauty is over". It complains that Europe's surface prosperity has masked the decline. "The initial stages of decay always have the gilded softness of the first days of autumn. But winter and sickness are not far behind."

M. Albert suggests a tax of up to £1.20 a barrel on oil imports to give the Community extra funds for investment. "It was pointed out to us that such a tax would be too favourable to the United Kingdom. This argument is typical of the devious way of thinking and the obsession with 'a fair return' which have become the poison of the community institutions, he says.

"There are only a few years left to indulge in this petty, destructive game of every man for himself. Tomorrow, when the Community is nothing more than a poor old cripple, it will be too late to learn that 'soft' growth builds a robust society and that slow growth leads to run down societies. Europe will have entered a new 'middle age', the era of its own Balkanization.

Significant progress made in development of operating business

Points from the statement by Mr. Jocelyn Hambro, MC, Chairman, and Mr. Neil Clarke, Chief Executive.

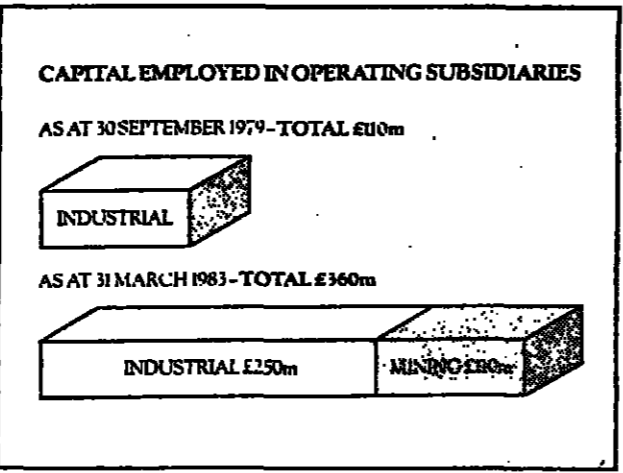
Earnings attributable to shareholders of Charter for the year to 31 March 1983 were £34.9 million, equivalent to 33.2p per share.

A final dividend of 7.25p net is recommended to give an unchanged total dividend of 11p per share. This dividend is covered three times by historic cost earnings and 1.6 times on a current cost basis.

Our policy of building up our industrial and mining business in selected areas was carried significantly further during the year in the fields of mining equipment and of coal and tin mining. In an active programme of acquisitions some £96 million was spent by the Group.

The lively takeover battle which ensued after our offer in May last year to the shareholders of Anderson Strathclyde finally brought control of that company in March. Anderson is an excellent company with a deservedly high reputation in the coal industry for the quality of its coal mining machinery. Charter has now achieved a major investment in the manufacturing of mining equipment, and the establishment of this has been at the forefront of our development strategy since the reorganisation of 1979.

In the Autumn of 1982 Charter acquired control of the South Crofty tin mining group.



Since 1979 we have made significant progress in the development of our operating business, with a major shift in capital employed in industrial and mining subsidiaries. This has grown more than three-fold from £110 million to about £360 million and now accounts for almost half of total capital employed. Of the total, £250 million or 33 per cent is invested in industry and £110 million or 15 per cent in mining. We have been able to achieve this development of our operating business without creating any strain on our balance sheet and while retaining a substantial investment base.

Sources of operating profits are now much greater in scale and more diverse in scope than they were in 1979 and income from our industrial and mining subsidiaries, though depressed in recent years, should assume much greater importance in the future.

Charter Consolidated P.L.C.

For the full statement together with the annual report and accounts, send this coupon to The Company Secretary, 40 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1P 1AJ.

Name, Company, Address form.

CHARTER

FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Profits in excess of £17 million
Shareholders' funds over £210 million

An unbroken record of growth
Heron Corporation report a further year of profitable activity. Profits before tax have risen by 10.5% to £17.1 million and shareholders' funds exceed £210 million, a rise of 12.7%. Turnover was £302.7 million.

Lancia concession, Greenwoods Transport and Videofilm acquired
Heron Trading Corporation will benefit substantially by the successful acquisition of the three activities mentioned above.

New brands for the consumer
Heron Consumer Products has consolidated its position in the home entertainment industry with the finalisation of arrangements to distribute Crown and York electronic products in the United Kingdom. Added to the division's existing brand, Ingersoll,

expected that construction work on both of these centres will begin in the latter part of 1984.

Record profits from insurance
The National Insurance and Guarantee Corporation has returned a record profit and has significantly

the sourcing and distribution of video-cassettes to an established national network of dealers.

Property portfolio in excess of £184 million
Heron Property Corporation's net worth and rental income have increased significantly and its completed property portfolio is now valued at £184 million. St David's Centre, the Group's development in the heart of Cardiff, has received two major awards and has provided the springboard for participation in similar schemes elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

Two proposed town centre schemes at Southampton and Walthamstow have both progressed through the various stages of the pre-development programme, and it is

FIVE YEAR FINANCIAL HISTORY table with columns for 1983, 1982, 1981, 1980, 1979 and rows for Turnover, Profit before taxation, Shareholders' funds.

HERON logo and Heron Corporation PLC text.

The property man with a foot in two camps

Whitehall to see Sterling service from P&O's helm

Psychologist Carl Gustav Jung coined the term synchronicity to describe acts beyond the realms of coincidence.

There appears, superficially at least, a certain synchronicity about the recent appointments of Mr Jeffrey Sterling, chairman of the once-troubled property group Town and City Properties.

As the board of beleaguered Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O) appointed him non-executive deputy chairman, the Prime Minister was approving his appointment as special adviser to Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for the combined ministries of Trade and Industry. An official announcement will be made on Monday.

Mr Sterling served in a similar role for Mr Patrick Jenkin when he ran the Industry Department last year. Indeed, Mr Sterling maintains a private secretary at the department and has a direct telephone line to the minister.

He dismisses any conflict of interest between the two positions. When Trafalgar House launched its rejected £300m takeover bid for P&O, Mr Sterling informed the Government of his position as a director and was immediately barred from receiving any papers or information relating to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's review of the proposed bid.

There is now a power struggle within P&O for the positions of chairman, managing director and for the posts of two executive directors. The incumbents were due to retire last month, which probably explains the timing of the bid approach from Mr Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar. The P&O board decided to stay on and fight, and to make sure the right team takes over if Trafalgar fails.

Mr Sterling and Mr Bruce Macphail, his managing

On Tuesday Mr Jeffrey Sterling was appointed non-executive deputy chairman of P&O, and next Monday the Government will announce his appointment as special adviser to Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for the newly-combined ministries of Trade and Industry. WAYNE LINTOTT talks to the man who is rapidly emerging as a central figure in Government/City relations.



Mr Jeffrey Sterling: Direct line to minister.

director, certainly have powerful supporters. These include the Prudential, Barclays Bank and Hambros Merchant Bank. The Town and City management team is widely respected in the city and considered the right group to take the helm at P&O.

The scenario works like this: P&O could take over Town and City's service division, its non-property trading arm, worth £100m. Then two directors could move onto the P&O board, preparing the way for Mr Sterling to take over Lord Inchcape's chairmanship.

P&O's defence strategy rests on the Government's rejection of the Trafalgar bid. P&O maintains its merchant fleet under the British ensign, critically important to the Government if it has to requisition

ships again for service in the Falklands.

Trafalgar has already registered three of its principal Cunard liners under foreign flags of convenience and its programme of refitting some of its ships abroad has not helped its case.

Mr Sterling claims the P&O board is contemptuous of Trafalgar's offer and consequently did not feel it warranted a profits forecast or asset valuation within the rejection document and was in no way a measure to buy time as suggested by some of the media. The truth is that the decision was tactical.

Mr Brookes gained the initiative with his surprise bid and the move was made to nullify that. If no figures were released then Mr Brookes was stuck with his present offer which the City considers far too low. So P&O, or more correctly, Mr Brooks, has cleverly curbed Trafalgar's hopes of institutional shareholder support.

An important factor, therefore, is Mr Sterling's ability to help argue the case against Trafalgar in the corridors of

Whitehall. If P&O wins, Mr Sterling stands a strong chance of getting the top job.

If P&P fails, Mr Sterling may have to look elsewhere, because before the bid Mr Ian Denholm looked to be chairman designate.

Where might he look? There has been much speculation surrounding Town and City's intentions towards British Electric Traction - another sleepy company - where Town and City has a 4 per cent stake.

Mr Sterling says the company's interest is that of a "purely interested spectator - at this stage". The present crop of bids illustrates the structural changes taking place within British industry. Mr Sterling's attitudes towards the changing trading conditions of the 1980s are well attuned to those of the Government.

Mr Milton Friedman's book *Free to Choose* adorns his office coffee table and books on chess strategy and chess sets litter his fifth floor Pall Mall Office. Would he consider leaving Town and City for bigger and newer pastures?

"No way. We have every intention of capitalizing on our efforts of the past eight years (the directors own 10m shares between them). You should never give up your power base. "If one sells out, all one has is cash."

Mr Sterling is not short of the above commodity. Certainly, the manipulation of power is far more interesting to him than money now. But he discounts any direct move into the political sphere.

His work for Mr Parkinson will cover finance and industry, particularly the inclusion of private capital into the public sector, outside of the Government's privatization programme. His will be very much an unofficial voice of the new department within the City.

Having resurrected Town and City from a near bankruptcy in 1974, Mr Sterling, previously a banker and protégé of Sir Isaac Wolfson at Great Universal Stores, has instituted a change of name for the group.

It will soon become known as Sterling Guarantee Trust, his old trading company.

The move is more than just cosmetic. The whole operation is more broadly based and the shares should be a lot easier to trade without the dark memories of the past.

IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING General Electric Credit International N.V.

9 3/4% Guaranteed Notes Due 1991

Interested persons are hereby reminded that payment of the second and final instalment of the purchase price of the above-mentioned 9 3/4% Guaranteed Notes Due 1991 (the "Notes") of General Electric Credit International N.V. ("International"), such instalment being an amount equal to 80% of the principal amount, may be made on August 1, 1983 by persons shown in the records of either Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, as Operator of the Euro-clear System, or Cedel S.A. as being entitled to such Notes.

Payment of such final instalment should be made to the London office of The Chase Manhattan Bank (National Association) at the address noted below. No payment made after August 1, 1983 shall be accepted unless accompanied by a further payment representing interest accrued at the rate of 14 3/4% per annum on the amount of such payment calculated from and including August 1, 1983 to but excluding the date of actual payment on the basis of a 360 day year consisting of 12 months of 30 days each.

No person is under any obligation to pay or cause to be paid the final instalment of the issue price.

Persons entitled to the Notes upon payment of the final instalment are reminded that on August 15, 1983 International shall cease to have an obligation to accept payment of such final instalment, and in the event of a failure to make payment of the final instalment in respect of any Note on or before August 15, 1983, International will be entitled to retain the first instalment of the issue price previously paid for such Note and will have no obligation to repay such instalment or to pay interest thereon for any period prior to, including or subsequent to August 1, 1983.

Inquiries concerning payment of the final instalment on the Notes should be directed to either of the offices of The Chase Manhattan Bank (National Association) set forth below:

(For inquiries but not for payment)
The Chase Manhattan Bank (National Association)
Corporate Trust Administration
1 New York Plaza
New York, New York 10061
U.S.A.
Mr Frank E. Davis, Jr.
(212) 676-4063

(For inquiries and for payment)
The Chase Manhattan Bank (National Association)
Woolgate House
Coleman Street
London EC2P 2HD
England
Attention: Corporate Trust Dept.
(01) 726-5242/(01) 726-5458
Telex No. 8954681 CMB G

General Electric Credit International N.V.

Dated: July 8, 1983

Brasilvest S.A.

Net asset value as of 1st July, 1983
per Cr\$ Share, 325,238
per Depository Share, U.S.\$5,528.12
per Depository Share, (Second Series) U.S.\$5,191.24
per Depository Share, (Third Series) U.S.\$4,417.81
per Depository Share, (Fourth Series) U.S.\$4,127.17

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9 1/2 %
Barclays	9 1/2 %
BCCI	9 1/2 %
Consolidated Crds	9 1/2 %
C. Hoare & Co	9 1/2 %
Lloyds Bank	9 1/2 %
Midland Bank	9 1/2 %
Nat Westminster	9 1/2 %
TSB	9 1/2 %
Williams & Glyn's	9 1/2 %

* 7 day periods on rates of under £10,000, 6% £10,000 up to £50,000, 7% £50,000 and over.

BREMNER p.l.c.

(General Warehousemen)

Extracts from the circulated statement of the Chairman, Mr. J. T. Bremner, for the year ended 31st January, 1983:

The difficulties faced by the retail trade, during the period covered by these accounts continued to adversely affect the discretionary spending of consumers which resulted in a decline in turnover. However that decrease was contained to 2.5% (£3,801,483 against £3,889,428).

The pressure on trading margins combined with the continuing problem of rising costs had a significant effect on our trading profit (£34,810 against £117,376) whilst the fall in interest rates over the period reduced the contribution from our deposits.

Our financial strength remains sound and strong and it was felt that a final dividend of 1.70p (2.20p for year against 4.3p) reflected the maximum prudent amount which should be recommended for distribution.

The uncertain political and economic climate remains. The recovery from recession may be under way but it is both fragile and patchy and may take some time before it permeates through to our customers. Accordingly more substantive evidence must appear before making a judgement.

It is our hope to take advantage of the upturn in the economy when its presence is confirmed.

Rowe Evans INVESTMENTS PLC

Rowe Evans Investments is a plantation group. The Group has interests in rubber and oil palm plantations in Malaysia and Indonesia held either directly by group companies or indirectly through associated companies. The Group also holds a portfolio of investments which are mainly in the plantation industry.

A great number of important and radical changes have taken place in the Company during the past 12 months and the recently published Report & Accounts of the "new look" Rowe Evans were for the 9-month period to 31st December 1982. These show:-

Profit before tax	£557,096
Taxation	£205,231
Profit before extraordinary items	£323,989
Dividend per share	0.50p
Earnings per share	1.82p

"The Dividend for 1982 of 0.50p net looks modest, but availability of cash, the need to retain funds for building up our assets in Indonesia and the fact that our taxation for 1982 has been cushioned by the previous year's tax credits has made our Board cautious on this subject. For 1983, obviously much will depend on the price of rubber and palm oil, but with prices around current levels, with costs held down in Indonesia because of devaluation, and assuming Malaysian costs do not rise unduly, it would seem to me that dividend prospects for 1983 are good. Assuming political stability in Indonesia, reasonable prices for both rubber and palm oil and a successful conclusion of Malaysianisation discussions, I think I can forecast without undue bias that your Company has an exciting and prosperous future before it."

E. Hadsley-Chaplin, Chairman

Following the EGM held on 29th June, 1983, Supra Investments Limited which owns P.T. Pangkatan, a fully planted rubber and oil palm estate of 6,000 acres in North Sumatra, became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Rowe Evans Investments PLC.

Copies of the Report & Accounts and circulars which contain details of the recent acquisitions may be obtained from the Secretaries: M. P. Evans Secretarial Services Limited, Tubs Hill House, London Road, Sevenoaks, Kent. TN13 1DG. Telephone: 0732 457545

This advertisement complies with the requirements of the Council of The Stock Exchange in London.

U.S. \$40,000,000

Barnett Overseas Finance N.V.
(Incorporated in the Netherlands Antilles with limited liability)

7 1/2 per cent. Convertible Subordinated Bonds due 1998

Convertible into Common Stock of and Guaranteed on a subordinated basis as to payment of Principal, Premium, if any, and Interest by

Barnett Banks of Florida, Inc.
(Incorporated in the State of Florida)

Issue Price 100 per cent.

The following have agreed to procure subscribers for the Bonds and, to the extent that the Bonds are not so subscribed, to subscribe therefor:

Shearson/American Express International Group
Salomon Brothers International
Fox-Pitt, Kelton N.V.

The 40,000 Bonds, in the denomination of U.S.\$1,000 each, have been admitted to the Official List by the Council of The Stock Exchange, subject only to the issue of the temporary Global Bond. Interest will be payable semi-annually in arrears on August 1 and February 1, commencing on February 1, 1984.

Particulars of Barnett Overseas Finance N.V., Barnett Banks of Florida, Inc. and the Bonds are available in the statistical services of Extel Statistical Services Ltd. and may be obtained during usual business hours up to and including July 22, 1983 from the brokers to the issue:

Cazenove & Co.
12 Tokenhouse Yard,
London EC2R 7AN
and

The Stock Exchange in London

July 8, 1983

Fitch Lovell

Building on some of the best managements and products in the food industry

- Profits of on-going operations up 66%.
- Major objectives achieved with sale of retail and agricultural divisions.
- Substantial capital available for acquisitions.
- The Directors view the future with considerable optimism.

Financial Highlights of 1982/83 (53 weeks ended 30th April 1983)	£'000	£'000
	1982/83	1981/82 (52 weeks)
Sales	804,150	739,485
Profits before taxation	14,603	10,327
Earnings per share	16.01p	13.14p



Fitch Lovell PLC, 1 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9LA.

MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

50-point index fall feared

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin, July 4. Dealings end, July 15. Closing day, July 18. Settlement day, July 25.

Share prices had that winded look about them yesterday after the Chancellor's proposals to reduce public spending by £500m and raise a similar amount in the stock market.

The FT Index had another nervous session, closing at its low for the day 5.6 down at 691.0. Dealers fear that a further sharp fall in share prices is on the cards.

Among equities, banks suffered double-figure falls as one large seller tried to place more than £700 worth of stock at a substantial discount to the market level.

The loss of 3,500 jobs sent British Aerospace into a spin, losing 11p to 19p. The bulk of the cutbacks are being made on the civil aircraft side.

London Lord Sief, chairman, told shareholders he was reluctant to lengthen opening hours, although several of the group key stores did operate late hours.

retail jeweller, has decided not to pay the dividend on its 9 per cent convertible preference shares 1999 and the 9 per cent

Whose been building up a stake in Charterhouse Group behind the shield of Bank of England nominees? Having picked up more than 2m shares this year, the mystery shareholder holds about 6.5m shares, or just over 4 per cent.

special convertible cumulative redeemable preference shares 1999. The ordinary shares closed unchanged at 4p.

Applications for the offer for sale by tender of 2.6 million in Henderson Administration at a minimum tender price of 32p

also bad news for those shares where it still has a sizable interest. BP lost 8p to 418p, while Britoil fell 6p to 214p.

Shares of Rohmans International B dipped 3p to 115p yesterday. Brokers Zoete & Bevan still see a difficult time ahead and urges investors to lighten their load once the reports fall to 125p to 130p level.

De Zoete is looking for £135 in the year ended March 1983 and has downgraded from £140m to £130m for the current year.

The threatened sell-off of more Government assets was

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a share has been over-subscribed. Details will be announced today.

The Robinow family has decided to put all its eggs in one basket. The family is offering its 48 per cent stake in Crosby House, the freight and storage group, to the Investment Trust of Jersey in return for shares.

Provincial Cleaning Services, a subsidiary of Mr Michael Ashcroft's Hawley Group, is buying Oxford Building Services, an Oxford cleaning and maintenance group based at Atlanta, Georgia.

Crosby rose 5p to 180p on the news, but IIT was unchanged at 438p.

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THE TIMES 1000 1982/1983 The World's Top Companies

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, Div, Yld, P/E

SHIPPING

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, Div, Yld, P/E

MINES

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, Div, Yld, P/E

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, Div, Yld, P/E

INSURANCE

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, Div, Yld, P/E

PROPERTY

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, Div, Yld, P/E

RUBBER

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, Div, Yld, P/E

TEA

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, Div, Yld, P/E

MISCELLANEOUS

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, Div, Yld, P/E

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Ch'ge, Div, Yld, P/E

Other Markets

Table with columns: Country, Rate, Ch'ge

Dollar Spot Rates

Table with columns: Country, Rate, Ch'ge

Euro-\$ Deposits

Table with columns: Term, Rate, Ch'ge

RECENT ISSUES table with columns: Issue, Price

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: Fund, Price, Ch'ge, Div, Yld, P/E

SHORTS table with columns: Stock, Price, Ch'ge, Div, Yld, P/E

MEDICINES table with columns: Medicine, Price, Ch'ge, Div, Yld, P/E

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN table with columns: Country, Price, Ch'ge, Div, Yld, P/E

LOCAL AUTHORITIES table with columns: Authority, Price, Ch'ge, Div, Yld, P/E

DOLLAR STOCKS table with columns: Stock, Price, Ch'ge, Div, Yld, P/E

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS table with columns: Bank, Price, Ch'ge, Div, Yld, P/E

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES table with columns: Brewery, Price, Ch'ge, Div, Yld, P/E

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL table with columns: Company, Price, Ch'ge, Div, Yld, P/E

STERLING: SPOT AND FORWARD table with columns: Term, Rate, Ch'ge

MONEY MARKET RATES table with columns: Term, Rate, Ch'ge

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DOLLAR SPOT RATES table with columns: Country, Rate, Ch'ge

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INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK edited by Michael Prest

Minorco preparing for expansion

Conspiracy theories about Mr Harry Oppenheimer's works abound, but strange to say the proximity of Minorco's sale of part of its stake in Phibro-Salomon and Charter Consolidated's sale yesterday of part of its stake in Minorco may not be a cunning plot.

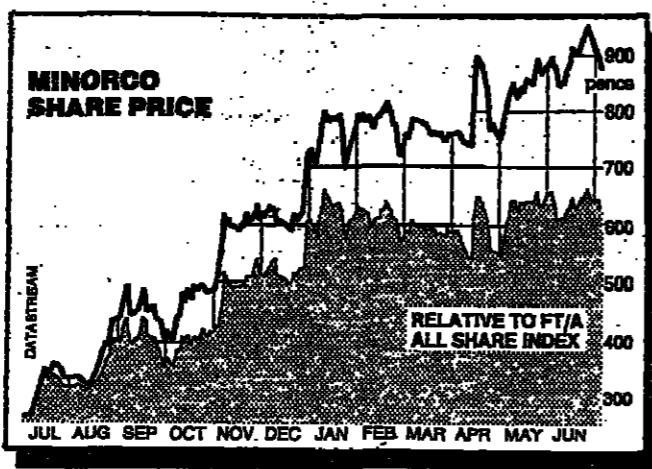
It is true that each operation has Minorco as its focal point, and it is equally the case that no development at Minorco is without a long-term purpose. Nevertheless, both transactions can be sensibly explained by the needs of the separate companies.

The cheques from Amantim, for example have halved, Hudson Bay, which is in the throes of a complex reorganization with Plateau Holdings and Trend International, has not paid any dividends for some years, and even the mighty Phibro is expected to pay the same this year as last.

Much the same considerations apply, ironically, to Charter reducing its Minorco stake from 9.3 per cent to 7.9 per cent.

Charter will find the £20m realized handy, but more important is the diminution of a holding which yields next to nothing while constituting a fifth of assets.

Tax also plays a part, and Charter might well have wanted



MINORCO SHARE PRICE

to sell more than 2.5 million shares.

It cannot be denied that Charter, although 36 per cent owned by Minorco, is no longer central to the worldwide plans of Anglo-American and De Beers. It has a degree of autonomy which Minorco, 66 per cent owned by Johannesburg, does not enjoy.

In Charter's case, therefore, the connection with the octopus is more one of history. But in Minorco's case it is one for the future. It would be surprising if the sale of Phibro shares was not followed by the purchase of natural resource assets in North America.

Marston, Thompson and Evershed's pretax profits for the year to the end of March rose from £6.08m to £6.86m, not from £6.03m to £6.36m, as stated yesterday. The dividend was as reported.

£2.1m under the terms of the industry rationalization scheme organized by Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank.

In this respect F H Lloyd proved to be one of the luckier foundry companies. Those which kept foundries open had to pay a subsidy to companies like Lloyd and still found themselves operating in an industry suffering from chronic overcapacity.

Latest industry statistics show that despite the Lazard rationalization which wiped out 25 per cent of capacity the annual market for castings is running at 106,000 tonnes each year, against a projected 144,000 tonnes.

The collapse of the metal industries and availability of cheaper and better quality castings from overseas are to blame. So the future of other companies in the industry like Weir Group and Lake & Elliott must be in doubt.

Lloyd's answer to the problem is to reduce its dependence on castings orders quickly, while concentrating on growth areas in specialist engineering, preferably overseas.

Elsewhere, Lloyd is also looking for escape routes from its steel production and its rolling businesses. Here the answer is almost certain to be series of joint ventures with the British Steel Corporation and, or private industry to eliminate capacity.

Granada Group

Granada Group Half-year to 16.4.83 Pretax profit £21m (£23.8m) Stated earnings 5.1p (6.1p) Turnover £261.2m (£29.9m) Net interim dividend 2.1p (1.92p) Share price 180p Dividend payable 26.8.83

The late Lord Thomson of Fleet once said that commercial television was a licence to print money. Channel 4 has quickly established itself as the exception to the rule and Granada Group makes no bones about its dissatisfaction with the results so far.

Reporting a 12 per cent decline in pretax profits to £21m for the first six months of the year, Mr Alex Bernstein, chairman, blames partly the substantial increases in payments to the Independent Broadcasting Authority for subscription to the new channel.

Granada does not expect things to improve in the second half.

There is a 9 per cent rise in interim dividends to 2.1p a share.

Interest charges doubled to £6.8m, reflecting the group's development programme - into microcomputers and leisure - and expenditure on rental assets. Television rentals in Britain recorded lower profits and the Belgian insurance company also showed poor results. The sale of Granada Publishing brought in £8.7m cash.

Dawson International has bought Kammgarnspinnerei Wilhelmshaven (KSW) of West Germany for a cash consideration of Dm 27.4m (about £7m). KSW is one of the largest spinners of hand-knitting yarn in West Germany, it sells under the brand name Hübner Wolle with an innovative product range extending from the more traditional yarn to fancy yarns to meet current market requirements. In the year to March 31, KSW made a pretax profit of Dm 5.1m (£1.3m) on sales of Dm 94m (£24m). At March 31 net assets were Dm 25.5m (£6.5m).

Symonds Engineering. Year to 31.3.83. Pretax profit, £165,000 (£254,000). Stated earnings, 1p (1.41p). Turnover, £2.91m (£2.9m). Net dividend, 0.75p (0.785p).

Eldridge, Pope Half-year to 31.3.83. Pretax profit, £728,000 up 87 per cent. Turnover, £9.28m (£9.35m). Net interim dividend, 5.5p (5.0p).

Braithwaite & Co. Engineers Year to 31.3.83. Pretax profit, £1.02m (£929,000). Stated earnings, 30.0 (30.9p). Turnover, £11.01m (£9.53m). Net dividend, 9.1p (8.1p).

United Computer and Technology Holdings Year to 31.3.83, compared with previous 10 months. Gross income, £120,000 (£83,000). Stated earnings, 1.26p (0.92p). Net dividend, 1.1p (0.8).

Mitchell Smeers Year to 2.4.83. Pretax profit, £1.22m (£2.23m). Stated earnings, 6.0p (9.8p). Turnover, £32.72m (£38.19m). Net dividend, 3.25p (3.25p).

James Latham Year to 31.3.83. Pretax profit, £587,000 (£229,000). Stated earnings, 19.3p (1.8p). Turnover, £28.85m (£24.5m). Net dividend, 10 (8p).

TOTAL Compagnie Française des Pétroles des Pétroles. TOTAL Group-Compagnie Française des Pétroles in 1982 Annual Shareholders' Meeting of 24 June 1983. Highlights of 1982. Exploration and production: Appreciable results were obtained from exploration with the discovery of commercially exploitable fields. Supply: Thanks to the flexibility and adaptive capacity of its commercial policy, CFP has been successful in reducing its average supply costs. Petrochemicals: The restructuring decided upon by the public authorities led the company to withdraw from its joint association with Elf. Uranium: With the acquisition of Dong-Trieu and the 100 per cent takeover of Minatome, CFP is now the second largest uranium producer in France. Results and Dividend: CFP (parent company) net earnings in 1982 amounted to FF440 million compared with FF407 million in 1981 and earnings distributed to FF409 million (unchanged). The total yield per share came to FF22.50 (dividend plus tax credit). Date of dividend payment: 5 July 1983.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL, METAL EXCHANGE, COPPER HIGH GRADE, MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION, and various other market data.

Table of commodity prices including RUBBER, SUGAR, COFFEE, and various other market data.

Table of Authorized Units & Insurance Funds, listing various investment funds and their performance metrics.

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England stand by their tour men and give Edmonds fresh chance

The dilemma which faces the England selectors is reflected in the choice of the side for the first Test match against New Zealand, starting at the Oval next Thursday. Though left down in Australia, they are standing by much the same team...

For Edmonds to have come back as he has shows great strength of character. There were times last summer and in 1981 when he lost all coordination. He had little idea where the next ball was going...

England 12 for the Oval

Table listing England's 12 players for the Oval match: R G D Willis (Warwickshire, capt), G F Fowler (Lancashire), C J Tavaré (Kent), D J Gower (Leicestershire), A J Lamb (Northamptonshire), I T Botham (Somerset), D W Randall (Notts), R W Taylor (Derbyshire), P H Edmonds (Middlesex), V J Marks (Somerset), G R Hill (Kent), N G Cowans (Middlesex)

Poor response to touring side Carthusians are not to be denied

In the afternoon, Wright proceeded to a century, which in its later stages approached a majestic one. He is not in the current game, many better drivers of the ball.

Wright was walking away, yards down the pitch, when, after a fumble or two, Doughty saw the ball on the ground at his feet. If he had picked it up he could still have run Wright out...

Hartley acts the stout captain

much less hazardous than it had been in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire on the previous day and with Kerr and Robinson chiselling away happily in a profitable groove, Nottinghamshire captain, took his side before Kerr they played on.

EQUESTRIANISM

Sponsor receives prompt dividend

Tomadachi, owned by Mr and Mrs Ronald Shuck and ridden by Robert Oliver, triumphed yesterday's Hack Championship, sponsored by Esplanade, at the Royal Show at Stoneleigh.

It was the third time lucky for Oliver yesterday: he has been ridden by Tomadachi on three previous occasions. He won this year, first at Windsor and then at the Stoneleigh and West Midlands Show.

There was a surprise reversal in the Lloyds Bank In-Hand Championships, which went to the Welsh mountain yearling, Waxing Herod, owned by the Waxing stud.

TODAY'S FIXTURES: Table listing cricket matches between Gloucestershire vs New Zealand, Northamptonshire vs Yorkshire, and other county fixtures.

YACHTING

Early selection gives de Savary's crew time to reach peak

He admits: "While I'm very pleased in general with the way things are going, I've been slightly alarmed by the fact that we've had flat seas and heavy light airs, whereas we had assumed there would be some chop and sloop and real wind at this time of year."

With two months still to go, with a third qualifying series plus a semi-final and final before a single challenger is produced to meet the defending American boat, de Savary knows that Victory '83 must maximise his performance and capabilities in every race from now onwards.

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Sonata with no pace

The first race of the Sonata national championship was slow to get under way and took hours to complete at Cowes yesterday.

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FOOTBALL

Lloyd takes over at County

Larry Lloyd has been appointed manager of Notts County in succession to Howard Wilkinson, who resigns on Monday.

Lloyd: "I was beginning to despair a little, but it's an unbelievable feeling to be back in football, especially in the big time, he said yesterday. 'I'm not naive enough to think I'm coming into this job knowing everything. I'm here to work hard and to learn, and I couldn't pick a better teacher than Jimmy Sirrel.'"

Watterson may leave

A board meeting today could mark the end of Mike Watterson's short reign as chairman of Derby County. Although he has not been confirmed it is believed that Mr Watterson is ready to step down as chairman of the second division club.

Watterson: "I would not comment yesterday, but it is thought to have grown weary of having to defend the Baseball Ground. The terrace for the Derby first two home matches next season will be closed after disorder in the final match of last season against Fulham."

Lloyd: 'Unbelievable feeling'

Ange Harvide, the Norwegian international defender, is set to join Norwich City on a free transfer from Manchester City. Harvide who spent the latter half of last season at Carr Row on loan, is expected to sign a two year contract.

Lloyd: "I was beginning to despair a little, but it's an unbelievable feeling to be back in football, especially in the big time, he said yesterday. 'I'm not naive enough to think I'm coming into this job knowing everything. I'm here to work hard and to learn, and I couldn't pick a better teacher than Jimmy Sirrel.'"

Taiwan for Olympics

Taipei. (Reuters) - Taiwan have been formally invited to the 1984 summer Olympics in Los Angeles where their athletes are expected to meet those from China for the first time in Olympic competition.

Mottram in dispute

"You really are hopeless," was the less than complimentary tribute paid to the umpire by Christopher Mottram during the Davis Cup player's quarter-final match with Martin Gutrip in the Scottish championships, sponsored by Ford at Crieff on Wednesday.

TENNIS

"The outstanding match of the day was that in which John Flaver, of Dorset, took the American Bruce Mansour to three sets before losing 6-7, 6-1, 6-4. Flaver let slip two points to make it 5-3 in the final set before Mansour ended the match with a perfect smash."

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Vertical text on the right edge: "bibtis ahead print hor"

RUGBY UNION

Smith retains his place to start the speculation

From Don Cameron, Auckland

The British Lions will marshal most of their backs against the Lions' international...

Smith will play against the other six members of the Third international back line...

Smith played against Hawkes Bay on Wednesday with a mixture of skill and rugged power...

very lofty lineout against Counties. But the lineout has been the least of the Lions' international worries...

Also the Lions should beware if they read too much into the lineout play of Lenihan and Bainbridge...

They will have the expertise of Andy Dalton, the All Black captain in the front row, and a former All Black prop...

The placing of Lenihan ahead of Colclough really should not be a similar pointer towards the Fourth Test...

Restore midweek matches' call

Bob Leslie, Northampton's new chairman, has called for a return to midweek matches in the county championship.

Perfect timing after Henley

By Jim Railton

This weekend, the same changes from Henley to the Lucerne Rotsee - the most perfect international course in the world...

The British squad, in what is traditionally regarded as the biggest regatta outside the World Championships and Olympics...

Given good playing conditions, and the field at the last sighting was firm and well grassed, the Lions should win, perhaps very well.

The men's heavyweight squad eight, entered on Sunday, meet East Germany, France, Denmark, the Netherlands and, once again, Northampton and Eastleigh...

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WORLD STUDENT GAMES

Surprise victory for British sprinter

Edmonton (Reuters) - Beverley Kinch, of Britain, surprisingly won the women's 100 metres...

The result was a shock because Miss Kinch, aged 19, from Farnborough, is better known as a long jumper...

Britain, who have sent their biggest team to these games, had plenty to cheer as the commonwealth champion Bob Weir...

Tommy, who won the bronze medal at the Moscow Olympics, achieved success yesterday with a throw of 76.82 metres...

In the men's shotput, the massive American Mike Carter coped well with the slippery conditions...

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Results from Edmonton

Athletics: 100m: 1. Y. Tanaka (USSR), 13.82; 2. E. B. ... 200m: 1. Y. Tanaka (USSR), 3.12; 2. ...

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400m: 1. Y. Tanaka (USSR), 1.10; 2. ... 800m: 1. Y. Tanaka (USSR), 2.28; 2. ...

1500m: 1. Y. Tanaka (USSR), 6.28; 2. ... 5000m: 1. Y. Tanaka (USSR), 17.12; 2. ...

10000m: 1. Y. Tanaka (USSR), 38.12; 2. ... 20000m: 1. Y. Tanaka (USSR), 78.12; 2. ...

TENNIS

Lewis's revival

By Richard Eaton

Chris Lewis will have a second chance within a week to get the Mayor of Mount Albert...

His match today is against the player ranked seventh in the world, Mats Wilander...

Philippe Chatrier, the president of the International Tennis Federation, would like to see the Davis Cup condensed into two weeks...

On the eve of the quarter-finals Mr Chatrier said yesterday: "The present Davis Cup is not satisfactory. It lasts too long...



A tribute in Devon: Complete with horse, Walton alias David Pilkington, a fishing bailiff

Tribute to a fishing legend with timeless qualities

Lines of Walton recast

By Conrad Voss Bark

Winchester Cathedral commemorates the life of an unusual Fleet Street ironmonger tonight. Similar celebrations have been or are taking place...

The ironmonger is Isaac Walton. He had his shop two doors west of Chancery Lane where he sold pots and pans...

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BUSINESS TO BUSINESS advertisement with logo and contact information.

MANUFACTURE AND HIRE OF STATIC AND HYDRAULIC STRUCTURES advertisement for Hertfordshire - Sheffield.

SPA PACKAGING LIMITED advertisement for Leamington Spa.

VICTORIA SWI advertisement for 5750 sq. ft. office space.

FREEHOLD PREMISES advertisement for complete redevelopment.

W2 and PALL MALL No Premium advertisements for office space.

Superb Office HQ for Sale advertisement for 77,400 sq. ft. luxury accommodation.

Looking for New Customers? advertisement for business opportunities.

FACTORY TO LET advertisement for 35p per sq. ft. industrial space.

COUNTRY PUB advertisement for a pub for sale with 8 acres.

THE ULTIMATE BUSINESS CARD advertisement for Executrade 24-hour service.

PRINT POWER! advertisement for printing services.

Handwritten text in a box: 1500

Car Buyer's Guide

Motoring by Peter Waymark

Yugo 45 Eastern Europe's best so far

British motorists considering whether to buy cars made in Eastern Europe have had to weigh temptingly low prices against, in most cases, thoroughly old-fashioned designs and the likelihood of high depreciation. It has not been an easy choice to make.

But the cars have gradually got better and the Yugo 45 from Yugoslavia, which goes on sale at the end of the month, is probably the best so far. Certainly it is a far greater pleasure to drive than the typical product of Poland or the Soviet Union, not to mention the Czechoslovak Skoda.

Like the Russians and the Poles, the Yugoslavs have built their modern car industry on licensing agreements with Fiat of Italy. A previous result of such collaboration, the Yugo 300/300 series (originally called the Zastava) was launched in Britain two years ago.

That model was based on the Fiat 127, in its day - admittedly 15 years ago - one of Europe's most advanced small cars and still a competent all-rounder with particularly good road holding. The Yugo 45, in turn, is a three-door hatchback which has its origins in the Fiat 127.

The 127, the first of the modern breed of "superminis", may go back to 1971 but it has only just been superseded in the Fiat range by the Uno and was for much of its life one of the top-selling models in Western Europe. The Yugo 45 has a distinguished pedigree.

The cars are not identical. The Yugo uses the 127's engines and suspension layout - all round independent with MacPherson struts in front and leaf springs at the back - and it has a Fiat gearbox, although not from the 127 but the 128.

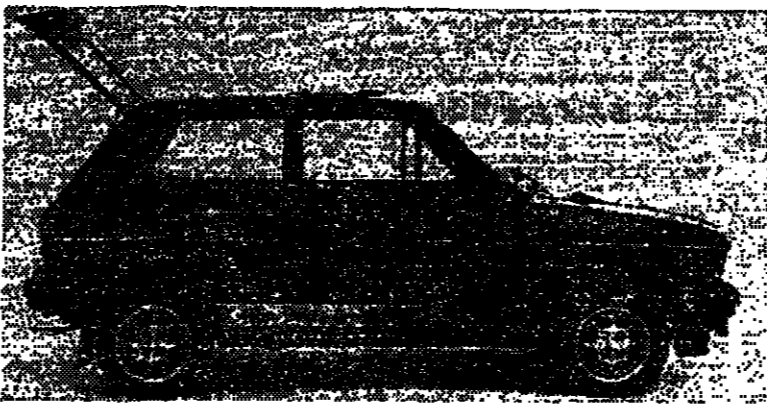
The bodyshell, however, was designed in Yugoslavia and is squarer and chunkier than the Italian car. It is also a few inches shorter, with no apparent sacrifice in interior space, which makes it even easier to manoeuvre in traffic and to park.

So far only one version of the Yugo 45 is available here, with a 903cc engine (the 4 refers to its brake horsepower), but it will be joined next year by a 1100 and a 1300 Sport. The basic model costs £2,749 and the better equipped GL £3,299.

With its brisk performance and crisp handling, the car immediately recalls its Fiat 127 origins. For its modest 903cc it accelerates eagerly and it will hold 70 mph on the motorway without undue strain, although a five-speed gearbox would be useful to cut engine speed and reduce noise.

The steering is precise and responsive and the car corners tautly with excellent roadholding. The gear change is, if anything, smoother than on the 127, although without servo assistance the brakes require very firm pressure.

Where the Yugo differs most from contemporary "superminis" is in fuel consumption. The official



Eastern promise? - the new Yugo 45

government figures give only 30 mpg in town driving and 45.3 mpg at 56 mph. The comparable returns for the Metro City are 38.4 and 53.1 and the Talbot Samba LE 39.8 and 52.3.

At a pinch the Yugo is a full four-seater, but there is not much head or legroom in the back for a tall person and the Metro is more impressive in this respect. Nor does the car have the Metro's split rear seat facility and the tailgate leaves a high lip over which loads must be lifted.

The Yugo's front seats are another sign of its age, being narrow and shapeless and giving little support either at the sides or to the thighs. But I understand that contoured seats, with headrests, are to be available in the autumn.

The importers, Zastava (GB), expect to sell the Yugo 45 mainly on price and specification. The basic version is more than £600 cheaper than the comparable Metro or Ford Fiesta and the GL, too, looks good value with, among its standard equipment, a radio cassette player, digital clock and alloy wheels.

Test: Talbot Solara

With the publicity in the medium car sector being hogged by the Ford Sierra and the Vauxhall Cavalier, the Solara has been in danger of becoming the forgotten model. Yet its styling is considerably and disappointingly sales have not accurately reflected its quality.

Launched three years ago, the Solara is a bootied version of the hatchback Alpine but with sufficiently distinctive styling so as not to emphasize that fact. The styling - to my taste, but these things must always be subjective - is as attractive as for any model in this part of the market, definitely not excluding the Sierra and Cavalier.

It is a roomy, comfortable and economical vehicle, with good performance, and yet it ranks into the list of the top ten best selling models. The reason, I suspect, has more to do with the uncertain image of Talbot than with the car itself, now that Talbot is moving into black, perhaps motorists will take its models more seriously.

I have been driving the Solara in its Series 2 form, with a number of changes, some of detail but others in

important areas, introduced last autumn. The most significant is the fitting of gearboxes from the Peugeot parent company. Fuel consumption had been improved, noise reduced and there are new seats.

My test car was the 1.6 GL, which has as standard a five-speed gearbox and power-steering. I am sorry to say that I did not find the gearbox a change for the better: it has springy, awkward changes and this is easily mistaken for first. As for the steering, it is light enough but could do with more "feel".

The engine, a pushrod design of several years' standing, is fitted with electronic ignition and develops 89bhp. For its size, it is a more than adequate performer, and although a little harsh when driven hard, use of the fifth gear on the open road gives very relaxed cruising. Overall, this is a pleasantly quiet car.

The fifth gear is a useful aid to fuel consumption and as the official figures (see table) suggest, the Solara can hold its own with the best in its class. My returns, 28mpg in town and 35mpg on the open road, indicate what the average driver might expect.

With the engine mounted sideways and driving the front wheels there is enough room inside for up to five people, with ample headroom in the back and reasonable legroom. The boot is shallow, mainly because the spare wheel is stowed underneath. The front seats are excellent, well shaped and supporting the back, and with so much glass area - three windows on each side - there is perfect visibility.

It is a pity that when carrying out improvements to the car Talbot could not have included the ventilation system. The rows of vents along the fascia look impressive, but even with the booster fan, the flow of air was inadequate in anything like hot or humid weather.

Vital Statistics

Model: Talbot Solara 1.6 GL five-speed Price: £5,995
 Engine: 1692cc four-cylinder Performance: 0-60 mph 13 secs, maximum speed 96
 Official consumption: urban 28.8 mpg 50.4 mpg, 75 mph 37.2 mpg
 Length: 14ft 5in Insurance: group 4

Mercedes

MERCEDES 350 SL 1979
 AUTOMATIC HARD/SOFT TOP
 Gold metallic, radio/auto aerial. 39,000 miles. Excellent condition.
 £12,000 ono.
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 Beautiful, white, X registration. Radio/cassette. Economical luxury motorcar. New 280 forcas sale.
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330

DEATHS

SMITH, MARRIAGES, DEATHS and IN MEMORIAM... Announcements solicited by the name and surname of the deceased...

BIRTHS

ALEN-BUCKLEY, EAGLE - Catherine and Robert a daughter... Atkinson - On July 6 at the Westminster Hospital...

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HILL - The service for the late Mrs. Hilary Hill... will be held in St. Andrew's Church...

IN MEMORIAM

CHILL - In memory of civilians killed without trial by government forces...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND - World Leaders in Cancer Research...

MARRIAGES

BRADY, SEVERL - On July 2nd at Holy Trinity Church, Lambeth...

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

REWS, PATTERSON - On July 8, 1928 at St. Peter's Church, London...

DEATHS

COOK - Aired wife of Neville Cook... died on July 6, 1983...

ADAMS - On July 6, 1983 at the Royal Brompton Hospital...

PARRY, WIGFIELD - On July 6, 1983 at the Royal Brompton Hospital...

CHRISTIAN - Anthony H.R. on July 6, 1983 at the Royal Brompton Hospital...

MELAN - On July 6, 1983 at the Royal Brompton Hospital...

CLEGG - On July 6, 1983 at the Royal Brompton Hospital...

CLIBSETT - On July 6, 1983 at the Royal Brompton Hospital...

MAJORS - On July 6, 1983 at the Royal Brompton Hospital...

GLAZEBROOK - On July 6, 1983 at the Royal Brompton Hospital...

GORING - On July 6, 1983 at the Royal Brompton Hospital...

MAITLAND - On July 6, 1983 at the Royal Brompton Hospital...

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GORING - On July 6, 1983 at the Royal Brompton Hospital...

MAITLAND - On July 6, 1983 at the Royal Brompton Hospital...

GLAZEBROOK - On July 6, 1983 at the Royal Brompton Hospital...

DEATHS

MARSH David Charles, Professor... died on July 7, 1983...

BIRTHS

NEWTON - On July 1st at the Westminster Hospital...

MEMORIAL SERVICES

NEWTON - On July 1st at the Westminster Hospital...

IN MEMORIAM

NEWTON - On July 1st at the Westminster Hospital...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWTON - On July 1st at the Westminster Hospital...

MARRIAGES

NEWTON - On July 1st at the Westminster Hospital...

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

NEWTON - On July 1st at the Westminster Hospital...

DEATHS

NEWTON - On July 1st at the Westminster Hospital...

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Spending cuts hit defence and NHS

Continued from page 1
manpower targets in the National Health Service, by seeking economies in less important expenditure, and by cutting the drugs bill.



The new Cabinet at 10 Downing Street yesterday. Back row (left to right) - Mr John Wakeham, Chief Whip; Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture; Lord Cockfield, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment; Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal; Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales; Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment; Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services; Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry; Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Transport; Mr Peter Rides, Chief Secretary to the Treasury; Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary to the Cabinet; Front row (left to right) - Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence; Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland; Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer; Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary; Lord Whitelaw, Lord President of the Council; Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister; Lord Hailsham, Lord Chancellor; Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary; Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science; Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy; Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland.

Frank Johnson in the Commons
Unkind cuts which will run and run

Mr Nigel Lawson, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, appeared at the dispatch box yesterday to announce £500m worth of cuts in budgeted public spending. This was all rather sudden. Until the morning hardly anyone had expected that this was to be a traditional 'cut day'.

The gospel according to St Michael

By John Lawless

It turned into the jolliest of punch-ups when Marks and Spencer, Britain's biggest retailer, faced its shareholders at the annual general meeting yesterday.



Lord Sieff: long used to fistfights
seeks, instead of packs of three? Lord Sieff was puzzled: 'We have single or triple packs. There is no case where bachelors, whatever their age, cannot buy single pairs.'

shirts in this country (40 per cent of total UK production) and our sales continue to increase. Another punch: Why do M&S ties have such bad designs, when John Lewis's are good? Lord Sieff, without admitting his source of neckwear: 'I must say I largely agree, I thought we had made some progress - although by tomorrow the selector will doubtless be down at John Lewis's.'

Today's events

- Royal engagements
The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor of Edinburgh University, confers honorary degrees at the University, arrives Medical Quadrangle, 10.40.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,176

Crossword puzzle grid with clues: 1 Stable conditions required by his consul designate? (8).

Fisher Price factory, Peterlee, Co Durham, 12.55.

The Duke of Gloucester opens extensions to County Hall, Beverley, North Humberside, 11; arrives Beverley Friary, 2.20 and Beverley Minister, 2.40.

Exhibitions in progress

Capability Brown and the Northern Landscape, Laing Art Gallery, Highgate Place, Newcastle upon Tyne, Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 4.30, Sun 2.30 to 5.30 (until July 31).

The pound

Table with columns: Bank, Buy, Sell. Includes Australia \$, Austria Sch, Belgium Fr, Canada \$, Denmark Kr, France Fmk, France Fr, Germany DM, Greece Dr, Hongkong \$, Ireland Pt, Italy Lit, Japan Yen, Netherlands Gld, Norway Kr, Portugal Esc, Spain Ptas, Sweden Kr, Switzerland Fr, USA \$.

Food prices

There is a wide range of salad ingredients in the shops; Cos and Webbs lettuce at 40-45p each, and iceberg cheaper than usual at 60-80p each because of increased English supplies.

Roads

London and the South-east: A 21: Single lane traffic at Capel and Lamberhurst Quarter, near Tunbridge Wells, M40: Eastbound lane closures between junctions 2 and junction 1. M20: Lane closures on Maidstone by-pass between junction with A20 (Coldharbour) and A 249.

The papers

Now the election is over the truth about Government spending cuts is coming out, says the Daily Mirror. 'No one can say they weren't told.'

Weather

A shallow depression is moving slowly SE towards NW Spain, and an anticyclone will persist over Scandinavia. 6 am to midnight: London, Midlands, central N England: Fog patches at first, mainly dry, sunny periods, isolated showers developing; wind variable, light; max temp 25 to 27C (77 to 81F).

Pollen forecast

Table with columns: Location, Pollen count, Peak times. Includes Aberdeen, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cardiff, Dundee, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Norwich, Oxford, Reading, Southampton, Swansea, Tyneside, Wakefield, Worcester, York.

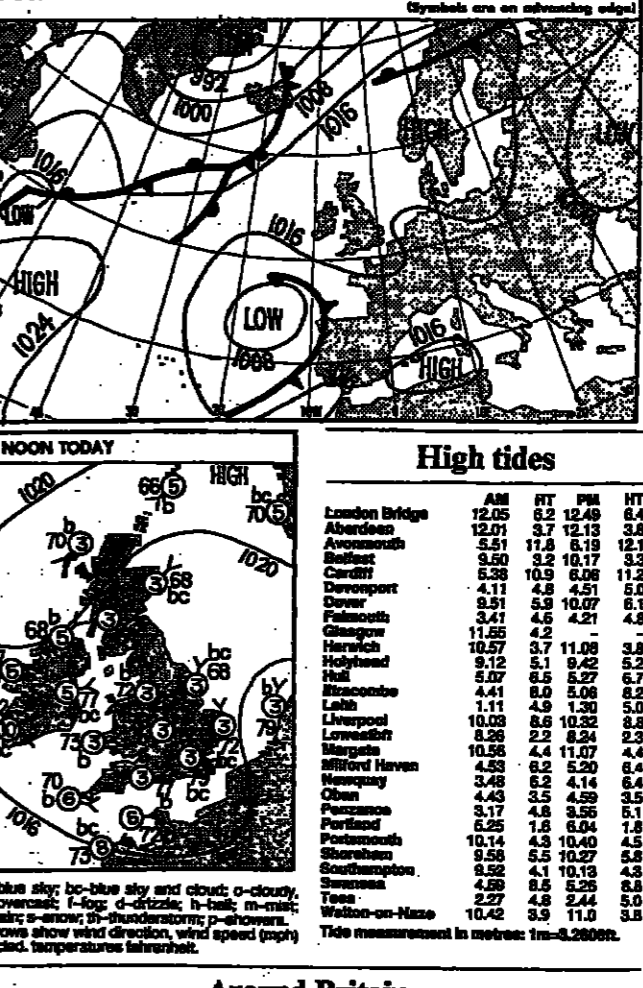
High tides

Table with columns: Location, AM, HT, PM, NT. Includes Aberdeen Bridge, London Bridge, Liverpool, Plymouth, Southampton, Swansea, Tyneside, Wakefield, Worcester, York.

Around Britain

Table with columns: Location, Sun, Rain, Cloud, Wind, Sea, Visibility. Includes Aberdeen, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cardiff, Dundee, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Norwich, Oxford, Reading, Southampton, Swansea, Tyneside, Wakefield, Worcester, York.

London and the South-east: A 21: Single lane traffic at Capel and Lamberhurst Quarter, near Tunbridge Wells, M40: Eastbound lane closures between junctions 2 and junction 1.



Lighting-up time

Table with columns: Location, Sunrise, Sunset. Includes London, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cardiff, Dundee, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Norwich, Oxford, Reading, Southampton, Swansea, Tyneside, Wakefield, Worcester, York.

Yesterday

Table with columns: Location, Temperature, Wind, Cloud, Rain. Includes London, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cardiff, Dundee, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Norwich, Oxford, Reading, Southampton, Swansea, Tyneside, Wakefield, Worcester, York.

Highest and lowest

Table with columns: Location, Highest, Lowest. Includes London, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cardiff, Dundee, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Norwich, Oxford, Reading, Southampton, Swansea, Tyneside, Wakefield, Worcester, York.

